THE ARCHITECT & BUILDING NEWS

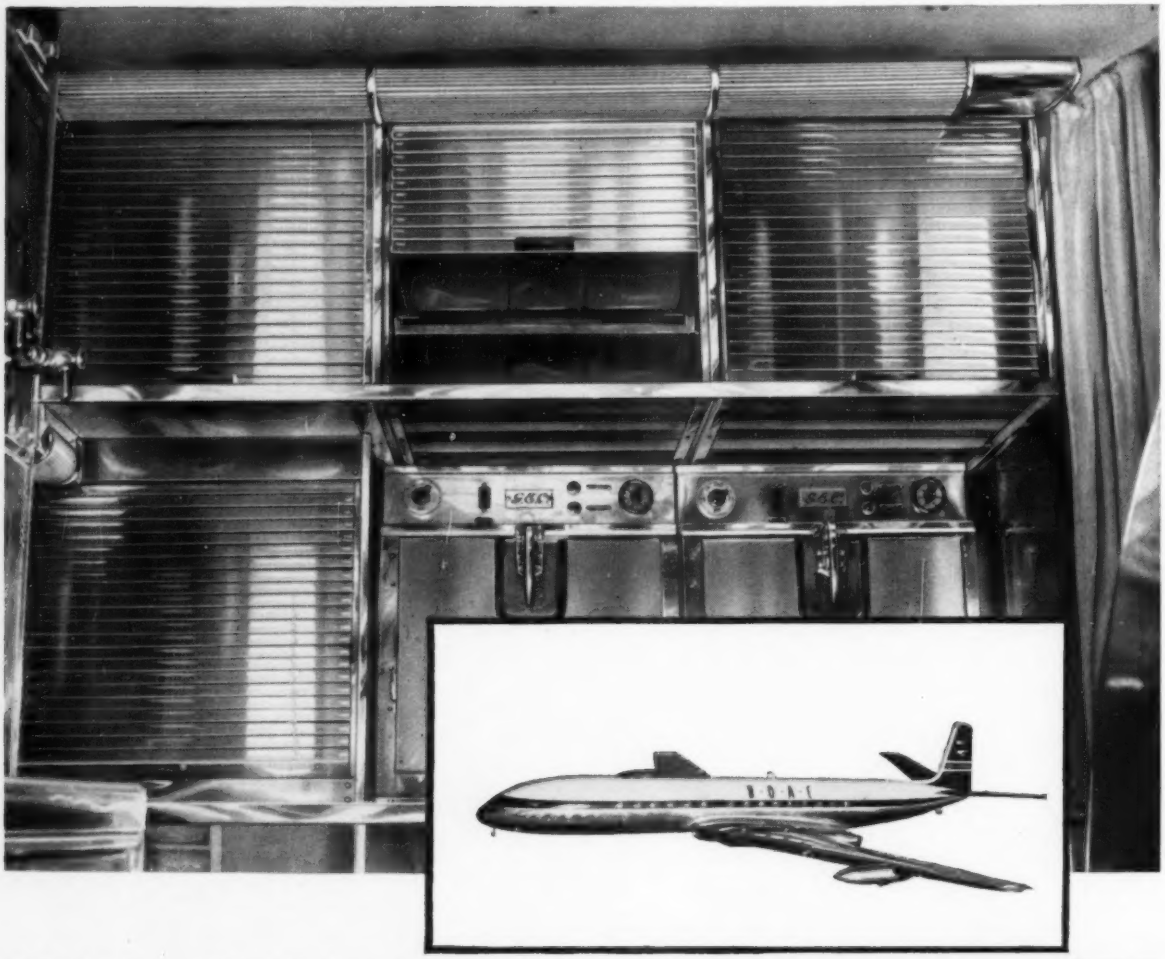
10 JUNE 1959 VOL. 215 NO. 23 ONE SHILLING WEEKLY

BRITISH ARCHITECTS' CONFERENCE, CARDIFF, 1959

PUBLISHED IN LONDON SINCE 1854

go flying

A new Comet takes the air, and over 50 passengers
settle to the luxury and comfort of excellent food and drink
served from a discretely shuttered galley—8 miles above the earth.
Brady Rolling Shutters incorporate over 80 years design and manufacturing
experience, and made in various sizes possess considerable versatility
in application. The Brady F1, for instance, is a smaller design
specially developed for interior use as in bars, serving hatches, cupboards etc.
The aluminium alloy flat lath construction presents an even flat face
which in various finishes blends harmoniously with any background or decor.
Operated by lift handle, their performance is effortless and reliable.
Send for illustrated leaflet F/2 /SA 656 FI



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brings things within reach

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COMPANY .....

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P.3297

A

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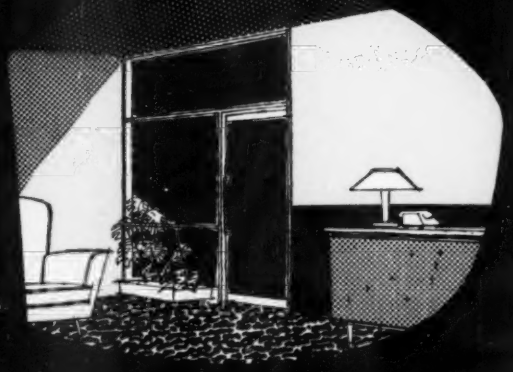

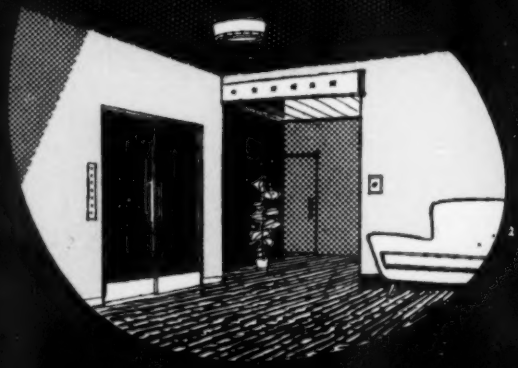

* *Ring or write for full details and the name of your nearest* WARERITE *Distributor*

Look to **WARERITE** Regd for Design Leadership

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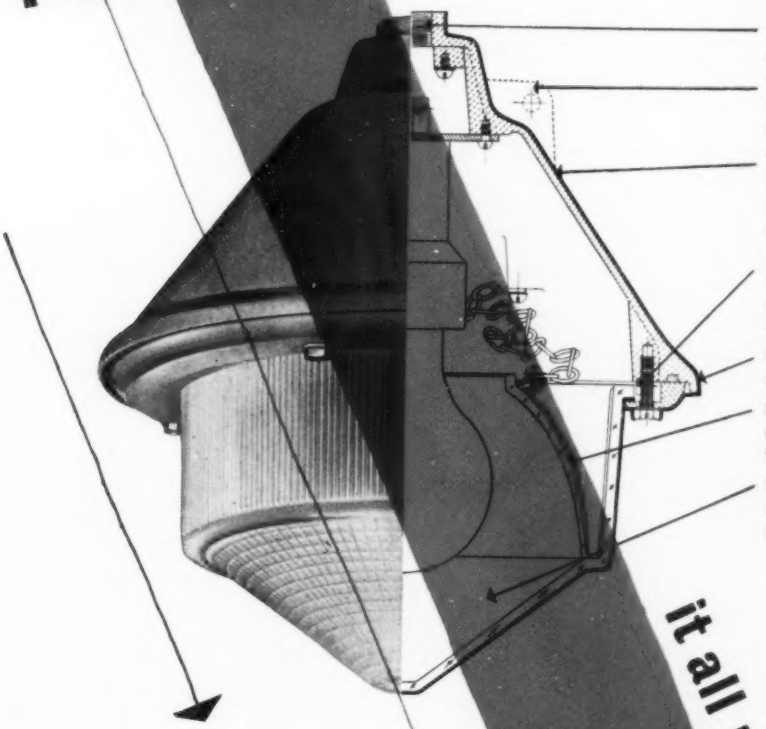
TGA WW33

FOR ALL THE FINER POINTS



ONE Top entry for conduit suspension, ¾ or 1-inch.

TWO Alternative lug fixing for corrosive conditions too severe for conduit.

THREE Lightweight silicon-aluminium die-casting, highly resistant to corrosion. Special finishes for extreme arduous service also available.

FOUR Sealed to prevent ingress of dust, moisture, etc., thus high lighting efficiency is prolonged with reduced maintenance costs.

FIVE Watershed lip for exterior use, or hosing down.

SIX Interior prismatic reflector redirects upward light from lamp down through conical base of

SEVEN Outer diffusing bowl of durable prismatic glass, set in a plastic compound in detachable ring.

ILLUMINATING ENGINEERING SOCIETY 1909/1959

it all points to

Holophane's Reflector-Bowl Cast Pendant illustrated is specifically designed for service in dirty and severely corrosive conditions, and is installed in the largest chemical and gas works in the country, and many other situations requiring a vapourproof, dustproof, weatherproof fitting. Pressurised and pressure-purged versions with alternative top and side-through entries are available. This unit combines all the finer points of engineering and optical skill applied to scientific illumination by Holophane over the past 60 years. Reflector-Bowl Cast Pendants, described in *Catalogue 5600* also details many other industrial fittings, free on request.

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- Readily adaptable on site
- Light in weight
- Time and labour saving
- Strong and flexible

JUDGELITE

JUDGELITE

JUDGELITE

Judgelite is made by a new process of fusing vitreous enamel on to a specially prepared Aluminium surface. It provides a light, easily handled, colourful wall material, the components of which can be cut, bent, drilled, punched, and if necessary, screwed or bolted into position without cracking, starring, flaking or splitting.

Judgelite is totally and permanently protected against rust, corrosion and industrial atmospheres.

Judgelite can be specified in any thickness and size of metal down to 24 gauge, and in size of sheet to the extent of 20 ft. × 4 ft. 6 in. It is possible to exceed these dimensions lengthwise, and to cater for modules up to 5 ft. Consultation on precise requirements combining extremes of length and width would be advantageous.

Judgelite has a hardwearing and attractive surface and can be produced to users' specified colours, or to any colour selected from our standard range of 150 graduations throughout the spectrum, and varying from full gloss to matt as desired. The colours are light-fast and very suitable for both internal and external use.

Judgelite is admirably suited to bonding on insulating materials to achieve specified thermal or physical characteristics in combination with colourful and durable exposed surfaces.

Ernest Stevens' experts and technicians are ready to advise you on all aspects and uses of Judgelite. They recommend it for use in offices, schools and factories public buildings and housing estates where colour, light and speedy assembly are required.

JUDGELITE

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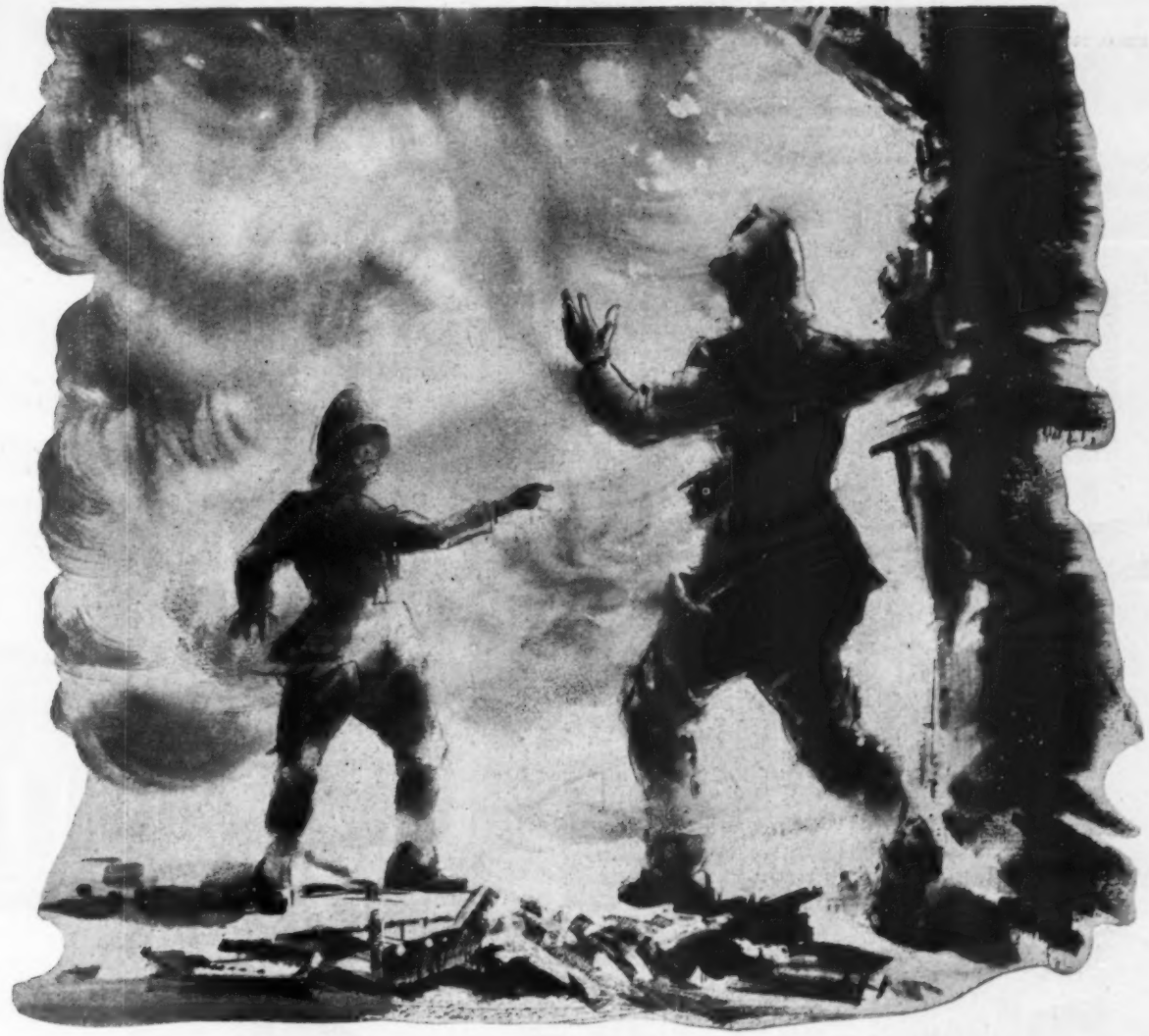
(Manufacturers of the famous 'JUDGE' Vitreous Enamelware)



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10 June 1959

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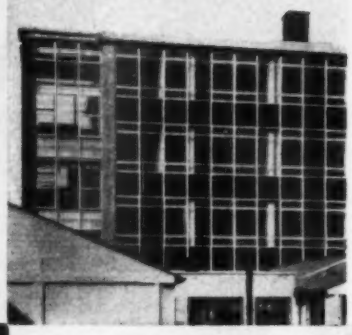
SALFORD
Architect:
G. Noel Hill

HATFIELD
SECONDARY TECHNICAL SCHOOL
Architects:
Easton & Robertson

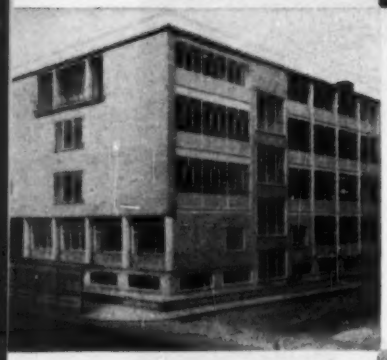
READING TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Architects:
Lanchester & Lodge



WORKINGTON COLLEGE
OF FURTHER EDUCATION
Architect:
John H. Haughan

POOLE COLLEGE
OF FURTHER EDUCATION
Architects:
Elder & de Pierro

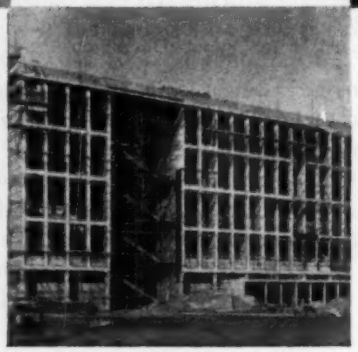
THURROCK TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Architect:
H. Conolly



KEIGHLEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE
YORKS
Architect:
A. W. Glover

BASILDON
FRYERNS COUNTY SECONDARY
TECHNICAL SCHOOL
Architect:
Denis Clarke Hall

OXFORD
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY,
ART & COMMERCE
Architect:
E. G. Chandler



BOURNEMOUTH
MUNCIPAL COLLEGE
Architect:
John Burton

DUNCAN OF JORDANSTONE
COLLEGE OF ART
DUNDEE
Architect:
James Wallace

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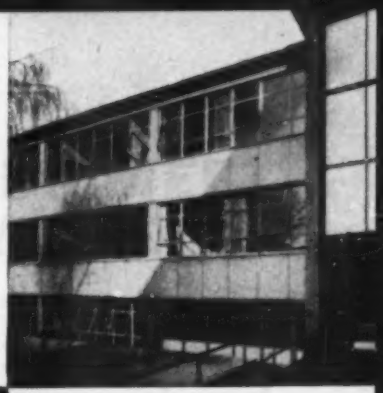
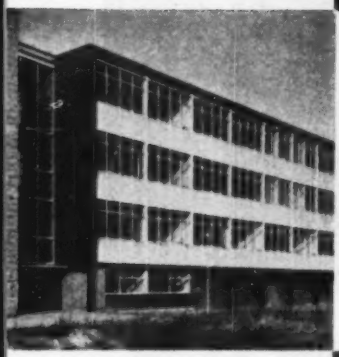
10 June 1959

CAMBRIDGESHIRE
TECHNICAL COLLEGE
& SCHOOL OF ART
Architect:
Alister MacDonald

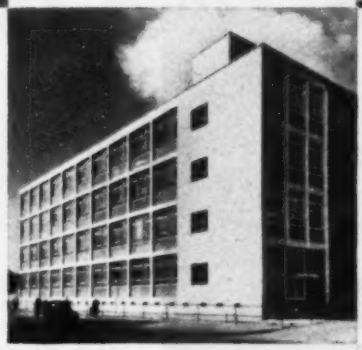




LONGLANDS COUNTY COLLEGE
MIDDLESBROUGH
Architect:
K. J. Caton

N. BEDS. COLLEGE
OF FURTHER EDUCATION
BEDFORD
Architect:
S. Vincent Goodman

QUEEN MARY COLLEGE
MILE END ROAD
Architects:
Playne & Lacey



N.E. ESSEX
TECHNICAL COLLEGE
COLCHESTER
Architect:
H. Conolly

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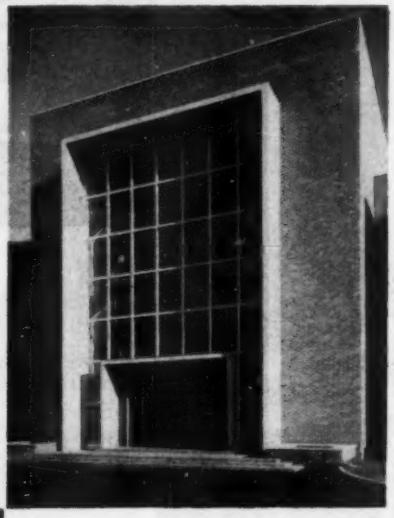
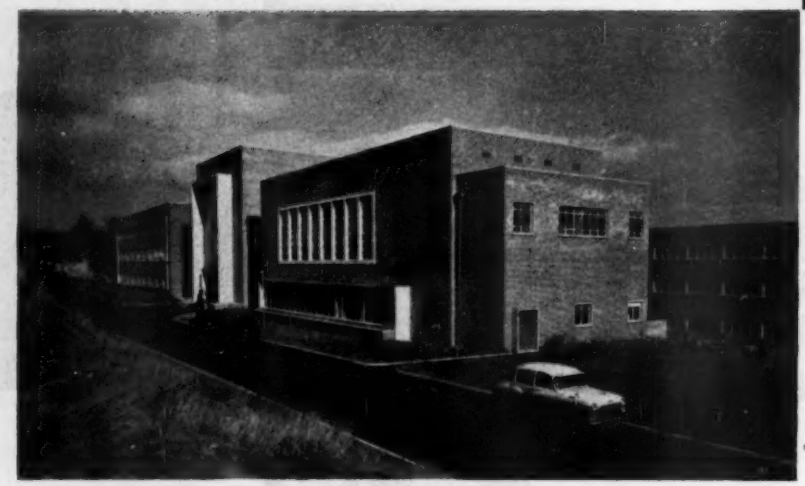


Entrance detail

The projecting canopy is fairfaced *in situ* reinforced concrete poured in 3 lifts



Front elevation

NEWPORT AND MONMOUTHSHIRE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

Principal: F. W. R. Harrison, J.P., B.Sc., M.I.Mech.E., M.I.Mar.E.

Architect: Sir Percy Thomas & Son, P.P./A.R.I.B.A.

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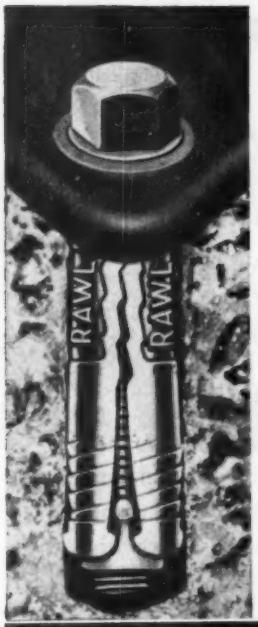
RAWLBOLTS



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1

2

Fig. 3. Pipehanger Rawlbolts (with adaptors for use with Pipehangers and other gas fittings).

3

Fig. 4. Rawlbolts fitted Pipeclips (7 sizes for ¼" up to 2½" O/D pipe diameter).

4

Figs. 5 & 6. Hook Rawlbolts and Eye Rawlbolts for providing anchorage for guy ropes and cables, supporting suspended ceilings etc. (5 bolt diameters, 3/16" up to ½").

5

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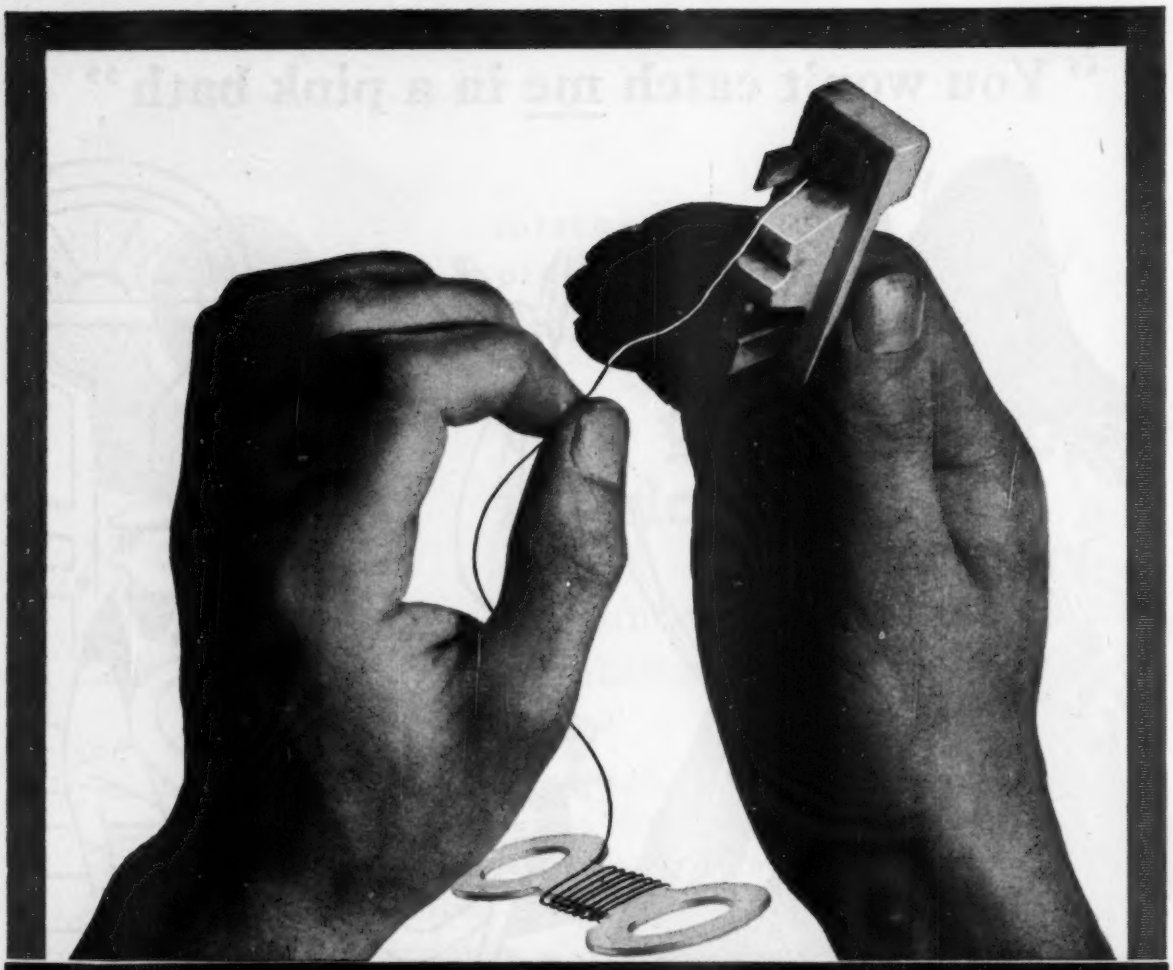

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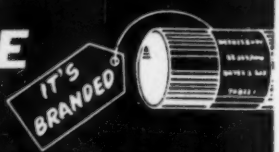

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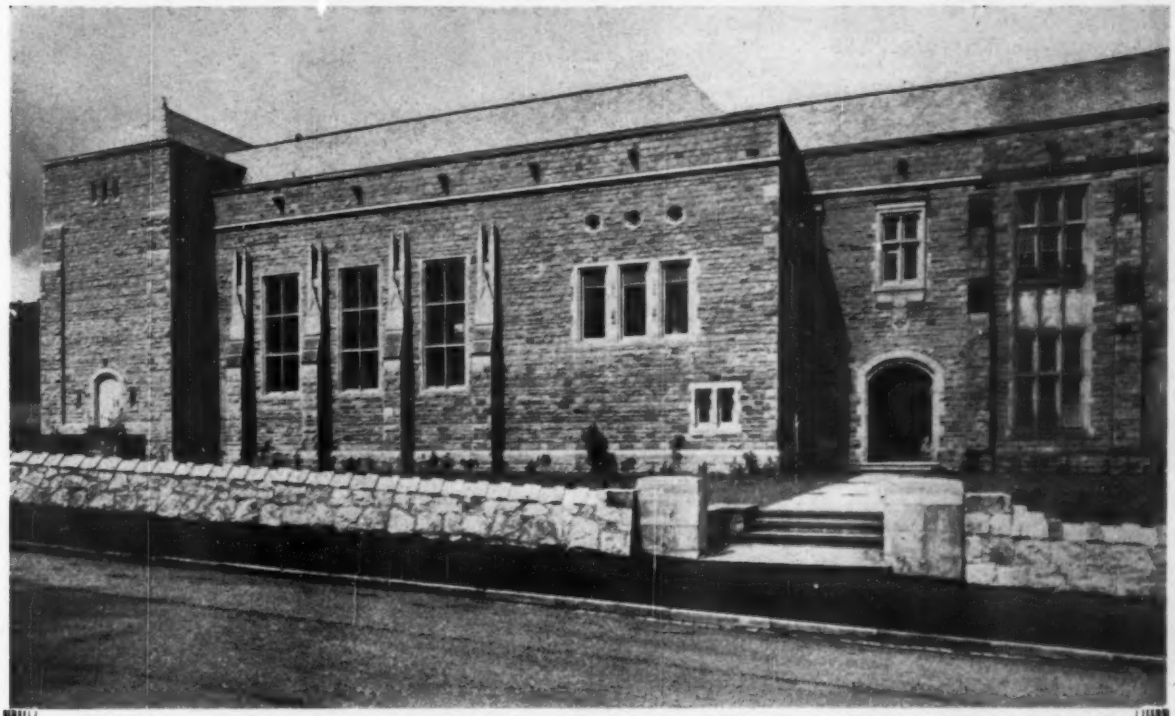

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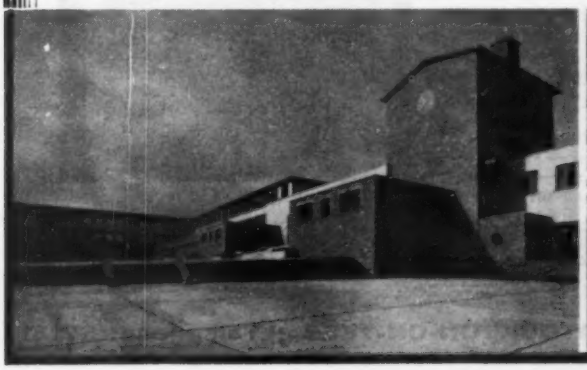

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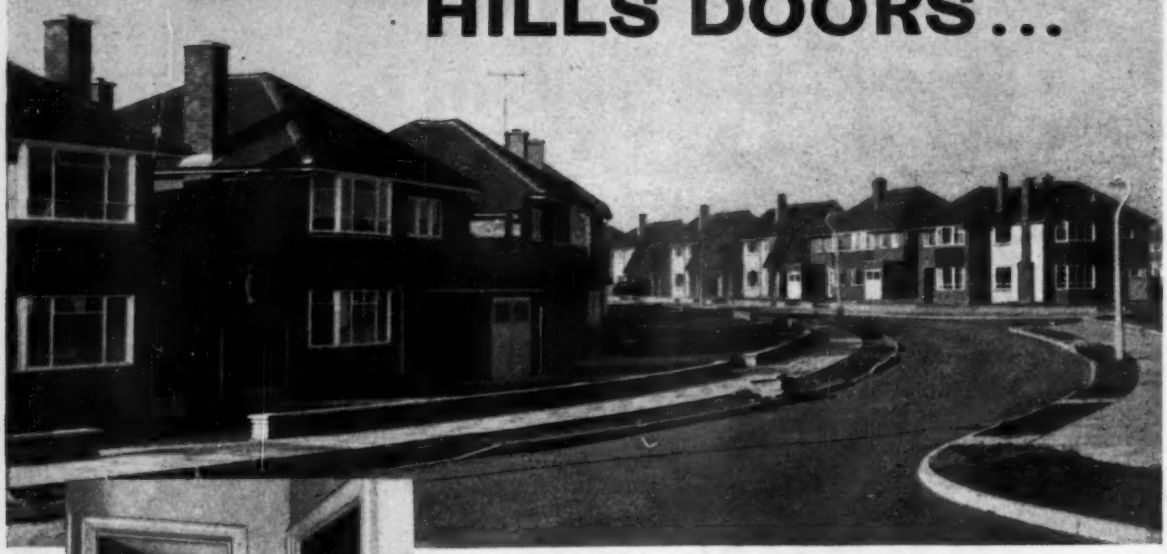
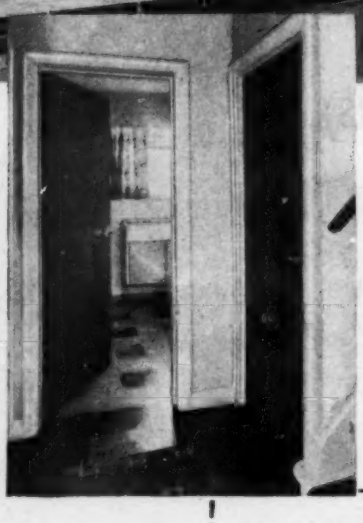


(Photograph of Benhall Farm Estate, Cheltenham, by courtesy of G. Wimpey & Co. Ltd.)



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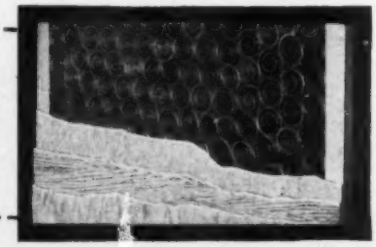

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The Crane 20 is so easy to manage

- *EASY TO FUEL. The fuelling lid is hinged and, with a normal fire, is comfortable to handle.
- *EASY TO CLEAR ASH. By means of the very efficient shaking grate, the ash is cleared with the minimum of shaking. The ashpan is extra deep.
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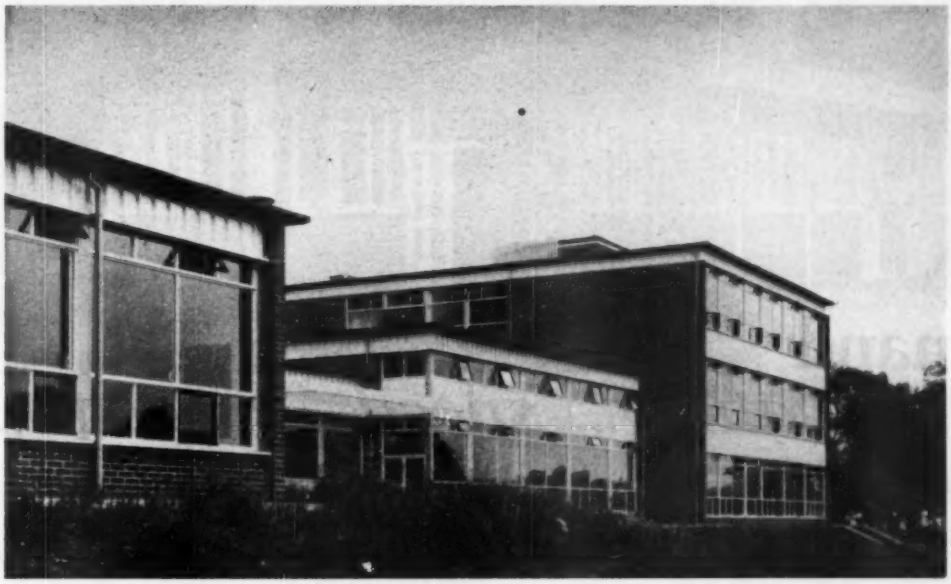

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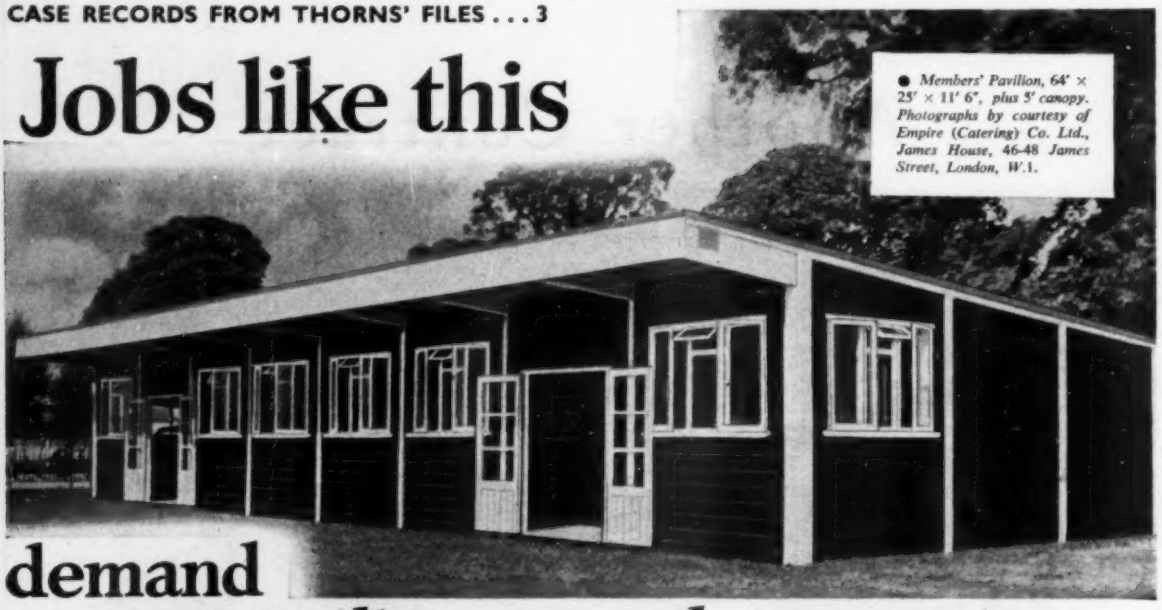

● *Members' Pavilion, 64' × 25' × 11' 6", plus 5' canopy. Photographs by courtesy of Empire (Catering) Co. Ltd., James House, 46-48 James Street, London, W.1.*

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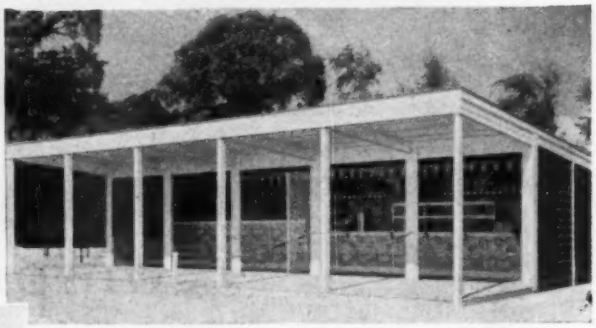

● *Grand Stand Pavilion, 40' × 15' × 9' 6" × 8', plus 10' canopy.*

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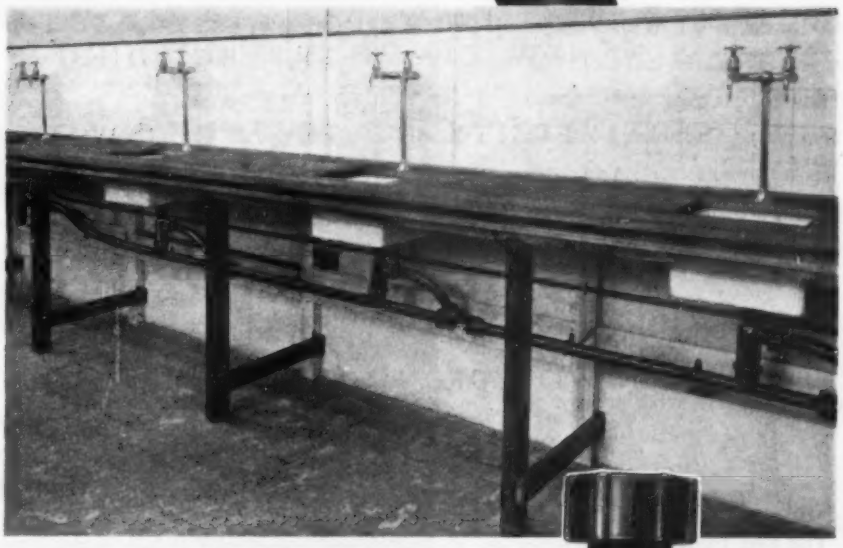

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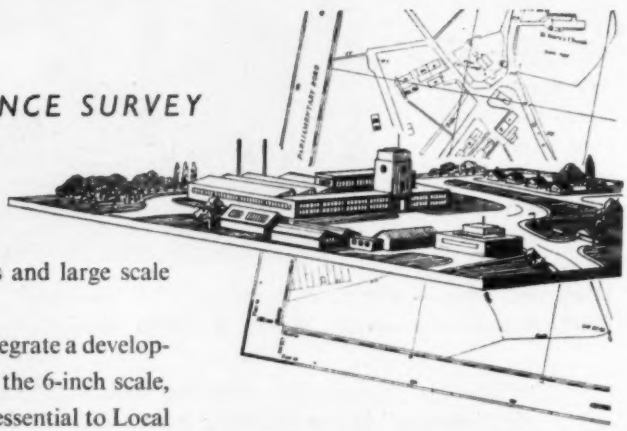

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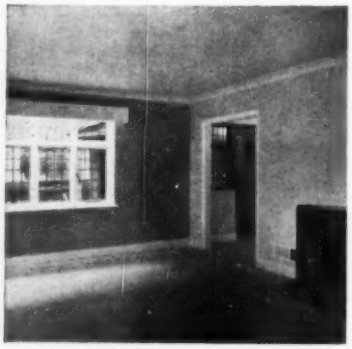

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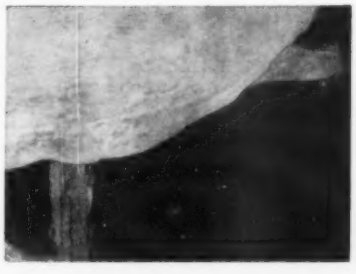
Thistle Plasters being applied to plasterboard.



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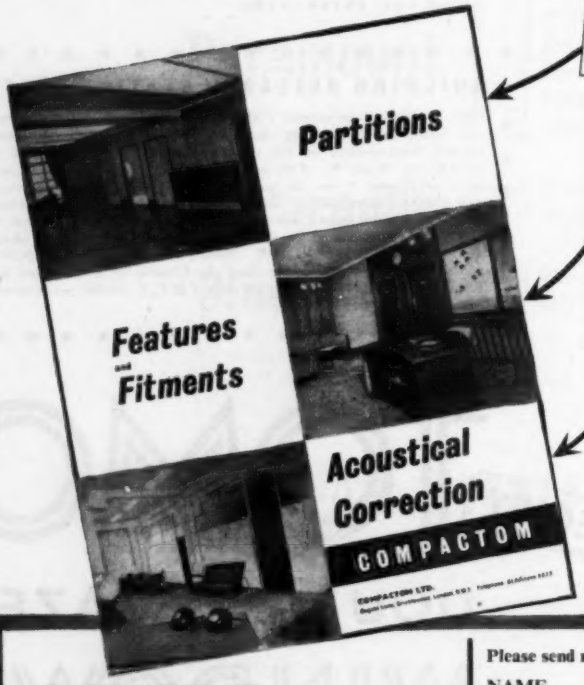

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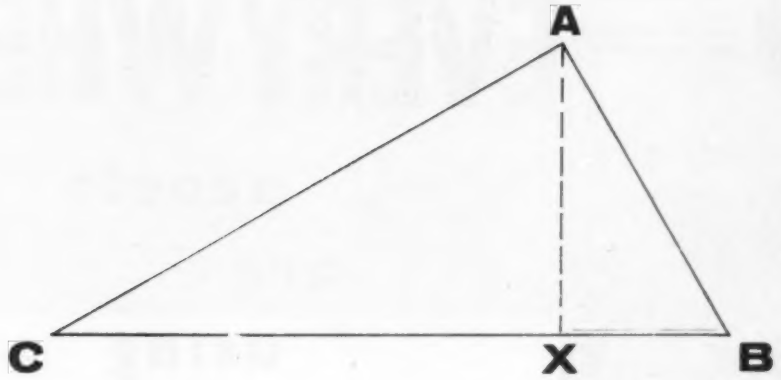

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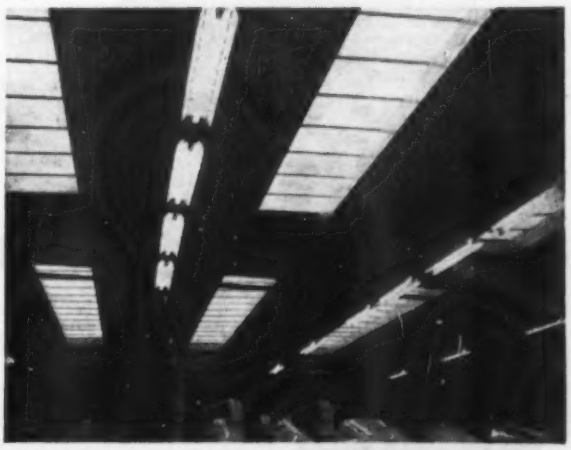

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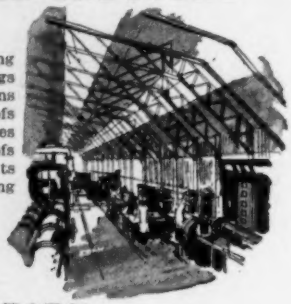

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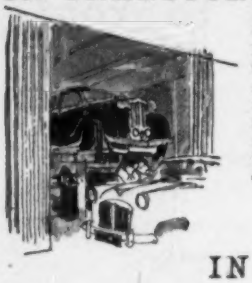

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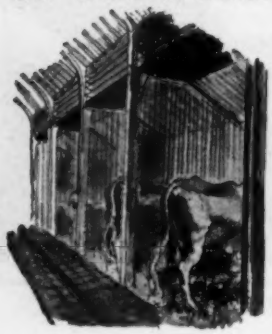

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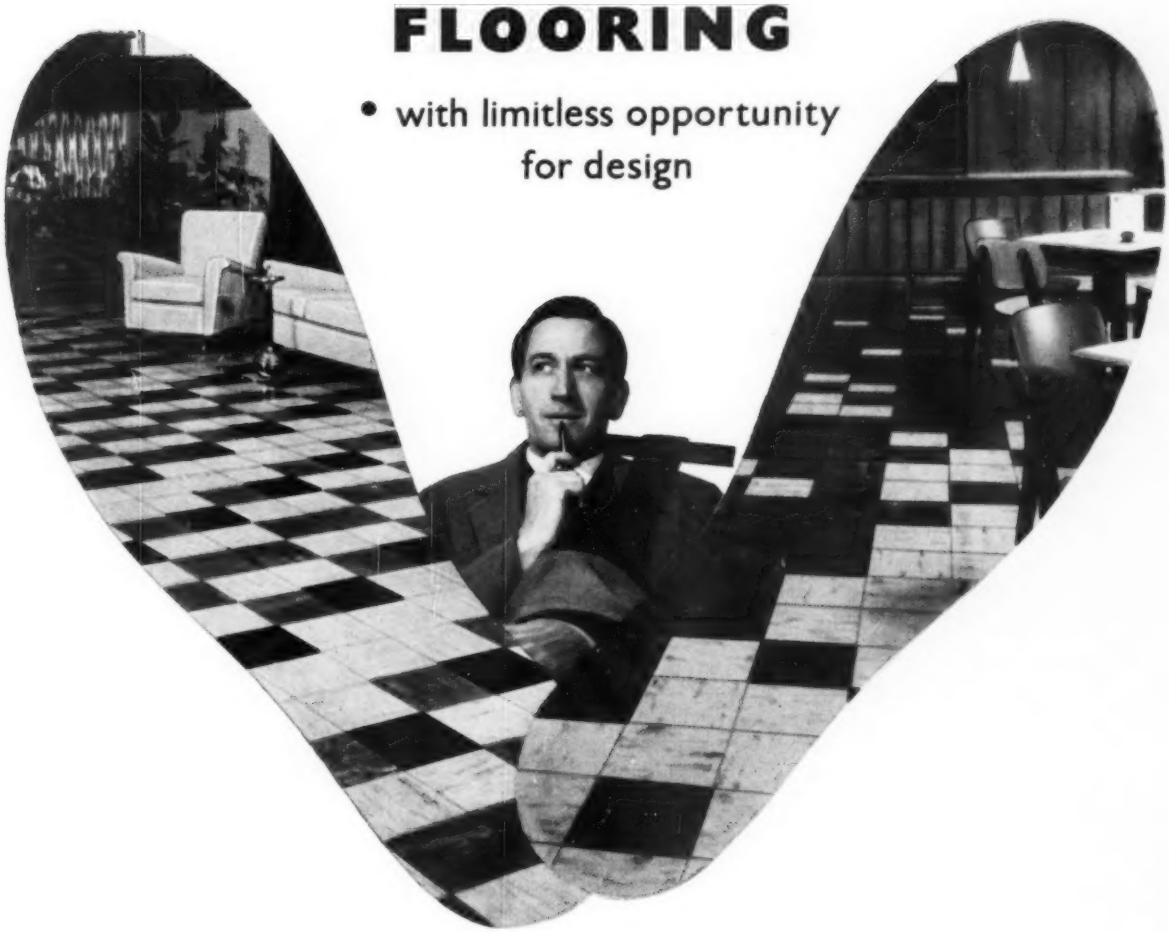

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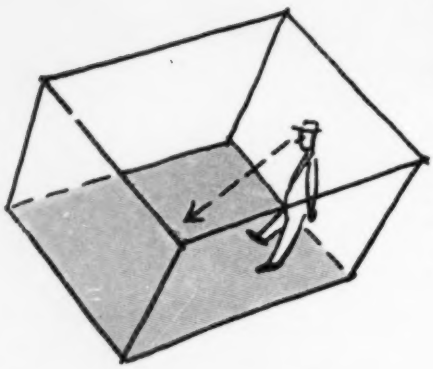


USING LINOLEUM ADVENTUROUSLY

This is the first in a series of articles produced by MICHAEL NAIRN & CO. LTD. *for the information and interest of architects. We asked the designer, James Gardner, for his views on the use of colour and design in linoleum flooring, and we give below his comments and sketches.*

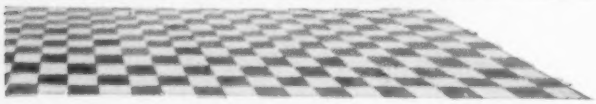
MOST OF OUR LIFE is spent in a box, and so the treatment of the bottom of the box, the floor, deserves some consideration. This is not a new conception when we think of the technical knowledge and effort that must have been involved in producing the Roman tessellated pavements, Persian carpets and the parquetry of the French renaissance.

We should, I think, be somewhat ashamed that we have applied the colours and patterns of modern flooring materials to so little effect, floor surface design usually being treated as a rather unrewarding exercise.

Linoleum, while satisfying the requirement for an easily-cleaned dust-free resilient material, also has an uninterrupted smooth surface. And very often we have miles of it.

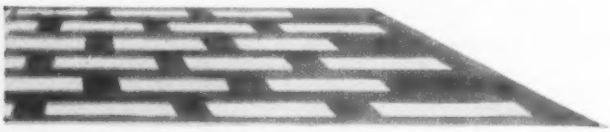
How not to be negative, but to relieve this monotony by actively exploiting colour, tone and pattern to give interest to the large floorscapes now common in public buildings, office blocks and schools, is the problem. How to set about it?

The unobtrusive and practical tile counterchange, using such quiet and 'safe' colours as Dove Grey and Buff (which is called White in the catalogue) is generally dull and boring and often leads to uncomfortable diagonal perspectives as one sees the tile repeat running off at 45 degrees.

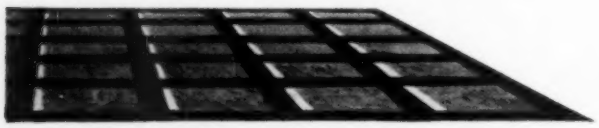


The alternative of applying some novel abstract design, which is usually devised on the drawing board as one would execute a design for a decorated tea tray, results in a floor which relates to nothing that will be standing on it—walls, people or furniture.

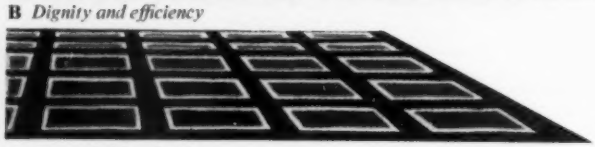
It is obvious that the floor must first be visualized as it will be seen from eye level in relation to walls and ceiling. A decision must then be made on the effect required, the character we wish to give the place.



A *Non-commital and negative*



B *Dignity and efficiency*



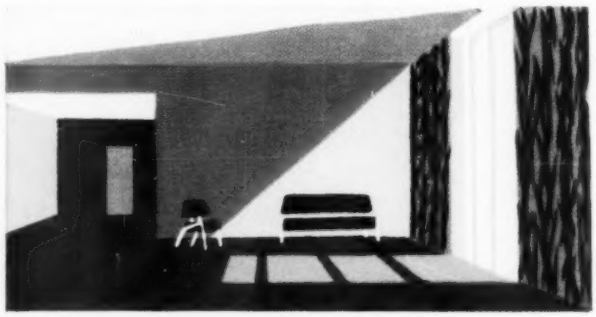
C *Brave, bold and rich*

With a simple tile or strip layout we can, by selection of colours and tones, get an effect of cool uncompromising efficiency, or warmth and richness. Or we can dramatize the area with unexpected and bold tonal changes.

Though not often conscious of the fact, people all the time react emotionally to the colour and space shapes around them, and so whether the architect considers the matter seriously or not, he will be producing an atmosphere—even maybe a negative one.

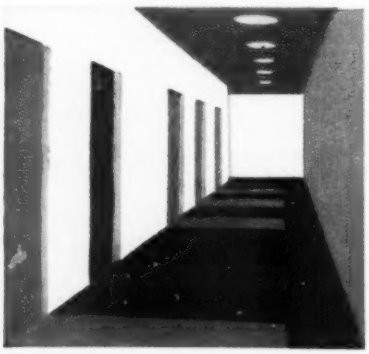
We must consider whether people are to feel welcome, select a spot to sit and rest for a moment, or whether they are here for a long time—perhaps eight hours a day for the rest of their lives. Are they to be impressed during a short consultation, or are they just passing through?

To visualize floor treatments in general terms is not very fruitful, as every floorspace sets a special problem. It is in designing to such limitations that ideas develop, and these sketches are intended to suggest an approach to the problem.



D

For example, in Northern climates sunlight is associated with pleasant mood, and a rather dull foyer with a north or obstructed window, which leaves the interior like a cold aquarium, can be given a friendly atmosphere by a floor design which simulates a patch of sunlight. The wall colours, should, of course, be decorated to develop this effect.



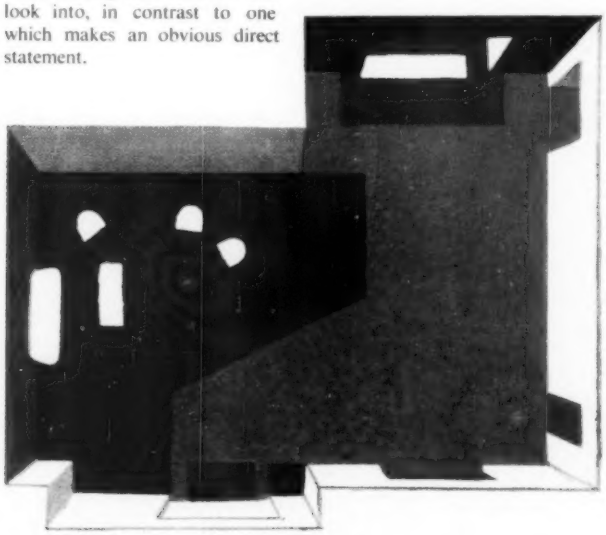
E *Pattern expresses purpose*

In administrative buildings, those long rectangular pipes with office doors down one side can be given an effect of logical progression by identifying the doors with a similar repeat pattern on the floor.

A large area, which it would be desirable but impracticable to relieve with carpets, can be broken up into zones of different character such as a walk-way across, a quiet zone, a lively zone, by different treatments on the one floorspace.

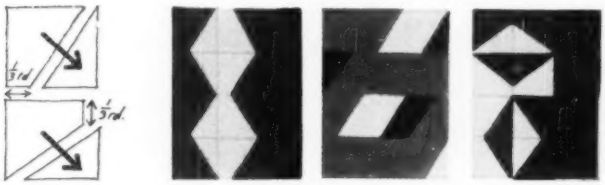
While I do not believe it possible to direct circulation in a large area by floor pattern, it is nevertheless sensible to relate the floor treatment to the activity which takes place in different zones, and to define steps and other hazards so that they are quickly recognized, particularly at night or in areas where there will be a low level of luminosity.

For a rest area we can lay out a subtle, non-repeating interchange of four or five colours of approximately the same tonal value, and so achieve an interesting floor that one can look into, in contrast to one which makes an obvious direct statement.

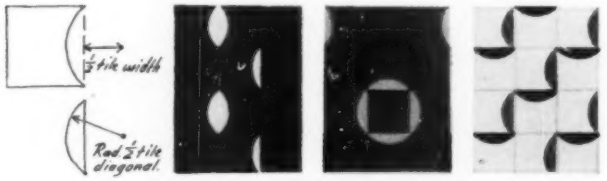


F *Lanes and areas of different interest (Plan view of Entrance Hall)*

The special treatment of linoleum floors is often written off as requiring tailor-made inlay to some elaborate key drawings, but by use of standard tiles and triangular half tiles, in conjunction with unbroken areas, so many permutations of colour, pattern and tone are made possible that cut designs need only be introduced when very special effects are required.



G *Simple cuts to make lively designs. (Details of die-cutting and hand-cutting techniques will appear in the second article of this series.)*



Nevertheless, there are such exciting possibilities in this direction that it would surely be worth the architect's while to appoint reputed artists to experiment with designs, just as he would appoint outside specialists to execute sculpture or a mural decoration. A floor can, after all, be a medium for the expression of ideas. It can give character to a utilitarian interior where decorative embellishment of other surfaces would be ruled out by cost.

Details of linoleum used in each illustration listed

A *Plain linoleum, cut. White and Dove Grey.*

B *Standard tiles. Charcoal, Black, with Arctic White, cut to strips one-sixth width of tile.*

C *Cardinal Red Marbled, and Oxford Blue and Yellow Plain, cut to strips.*

D *Plain—Brown R, Yellow and Black.*

E *Marbled—Black, Cardinal Red, Peacock Blue.*

F *Black and Brown R. Plain, and Peacock and Cardinal Red Marbled.*

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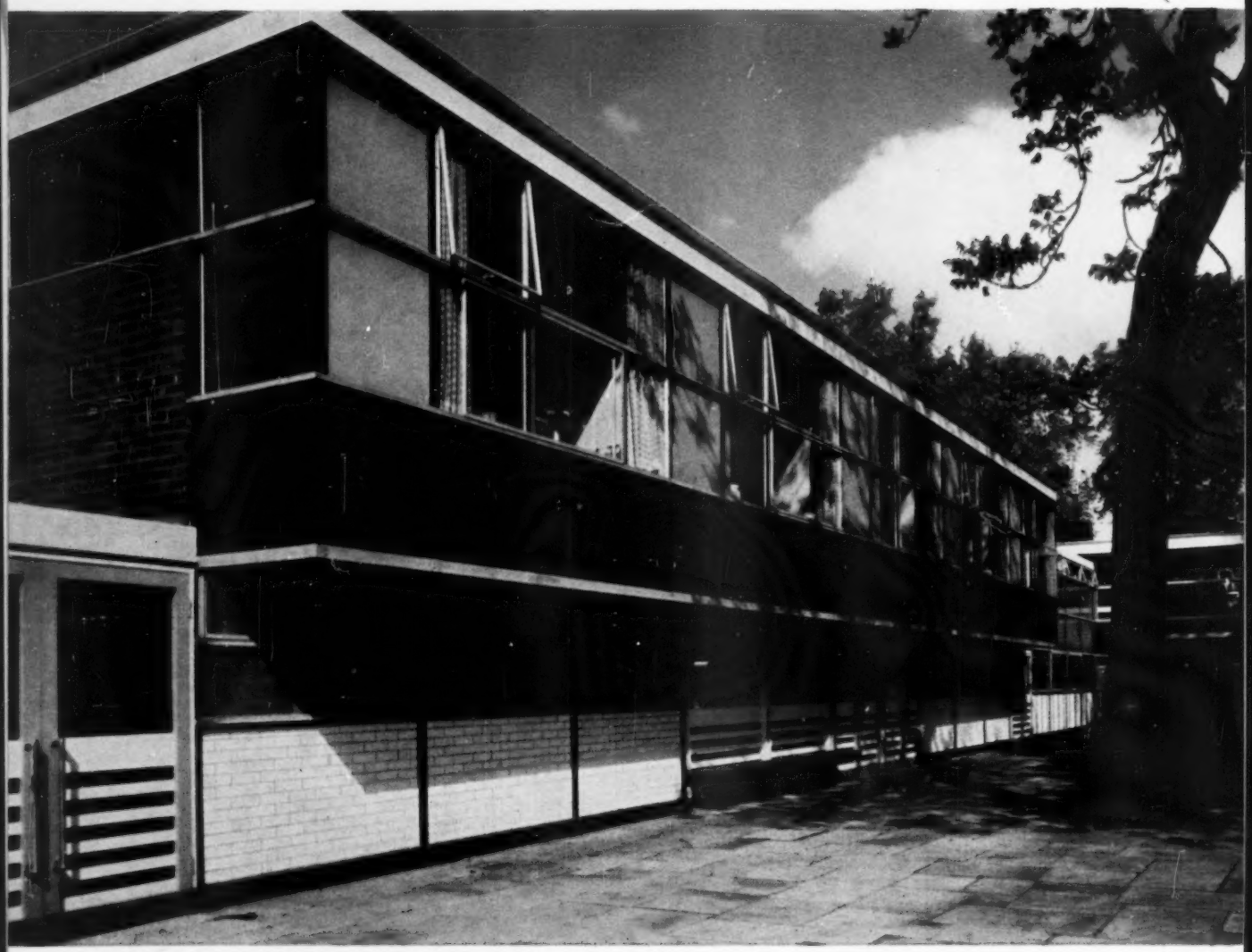

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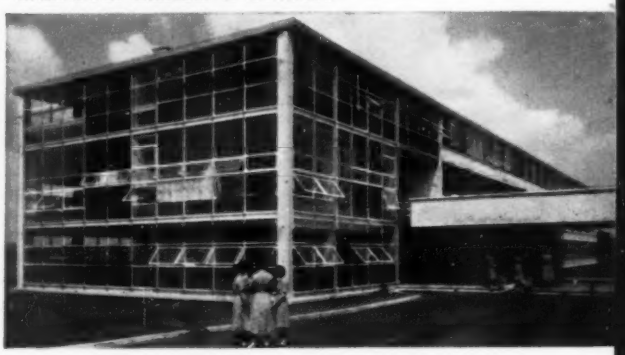

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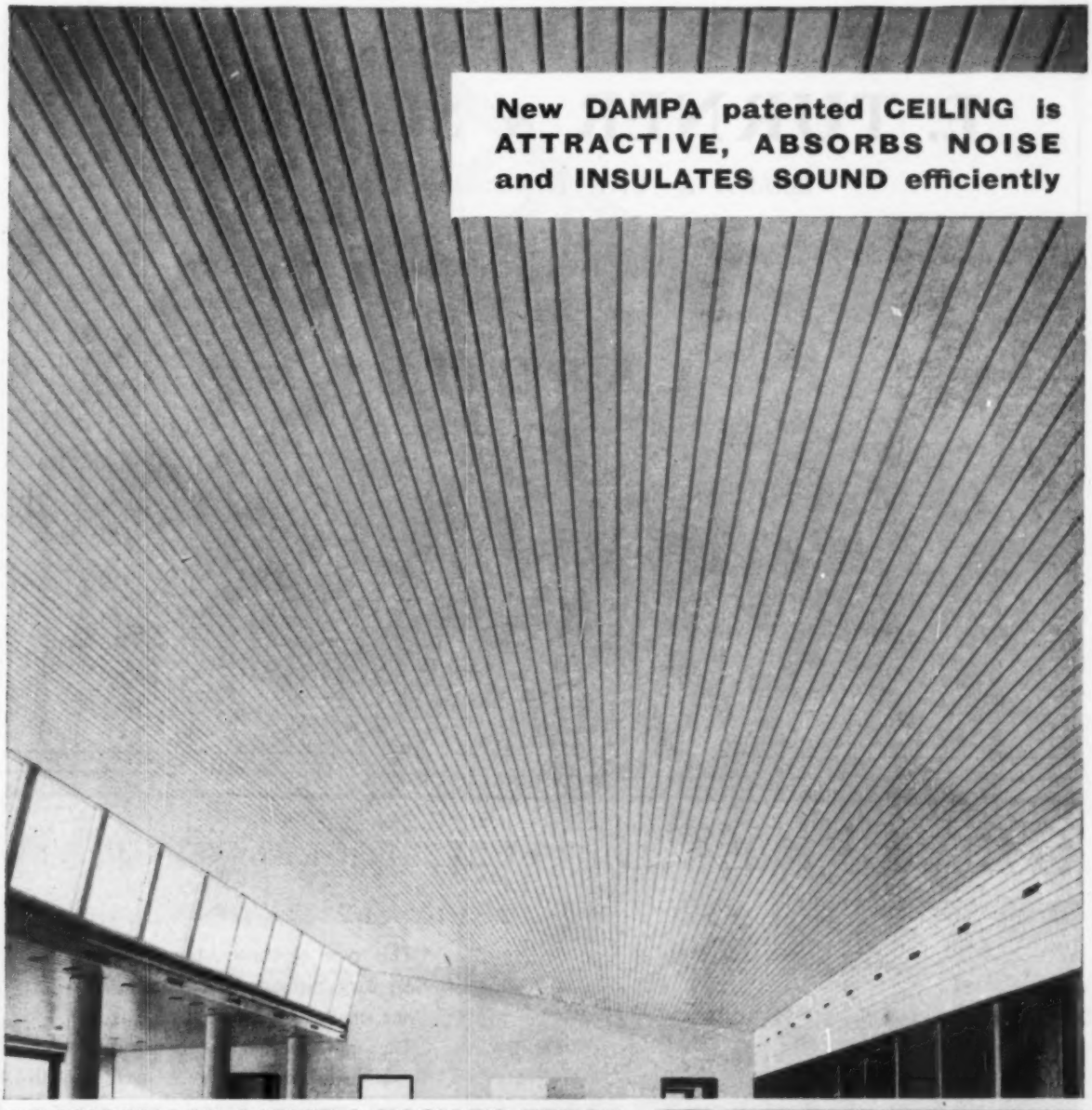

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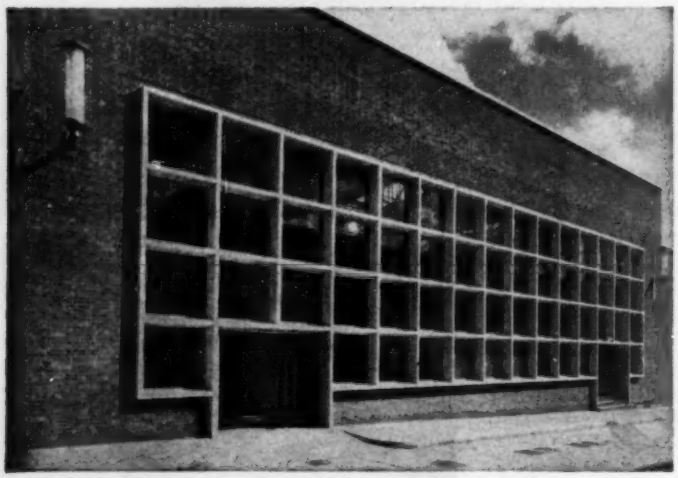

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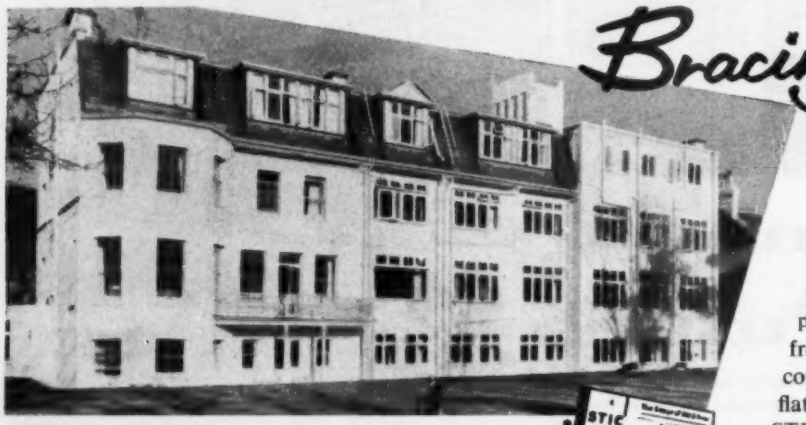

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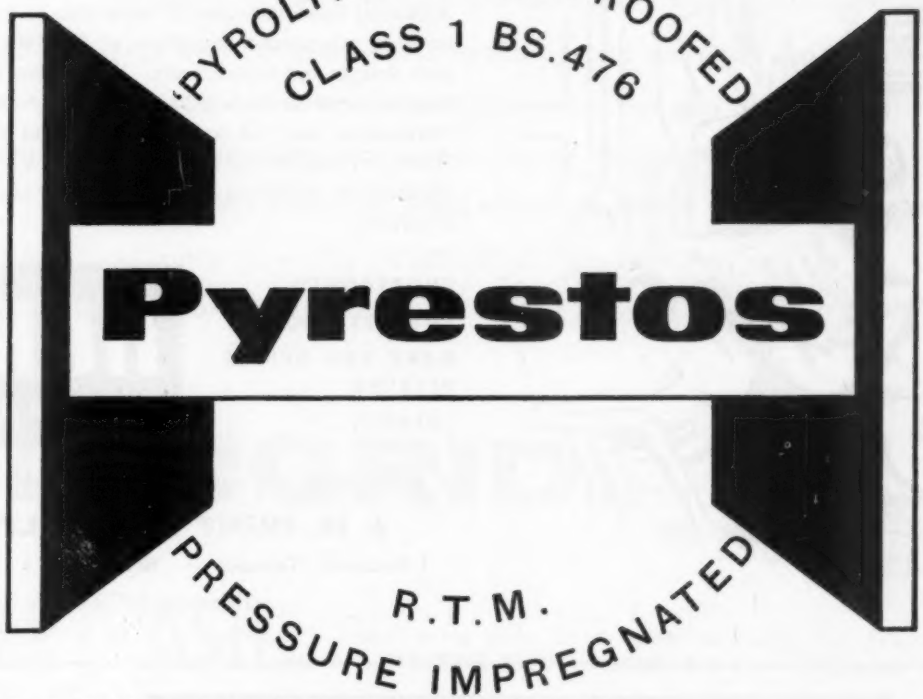

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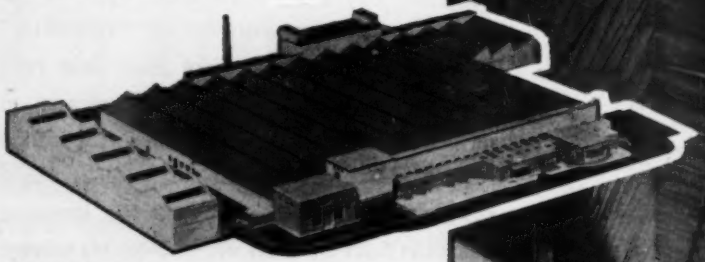

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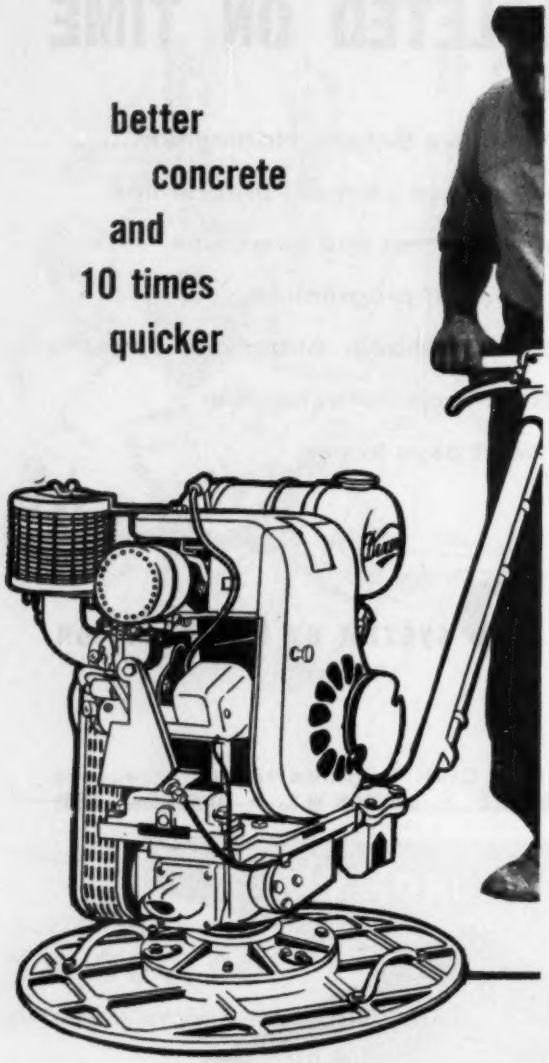

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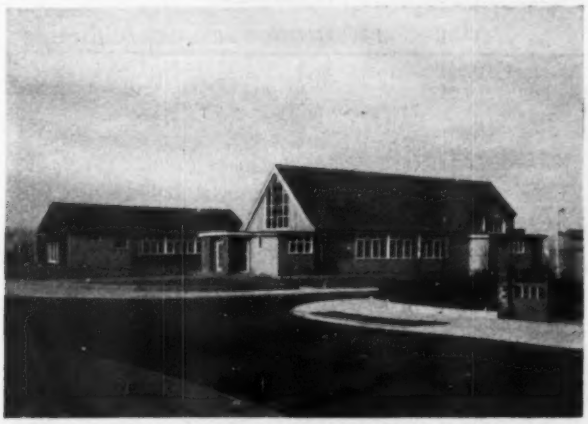

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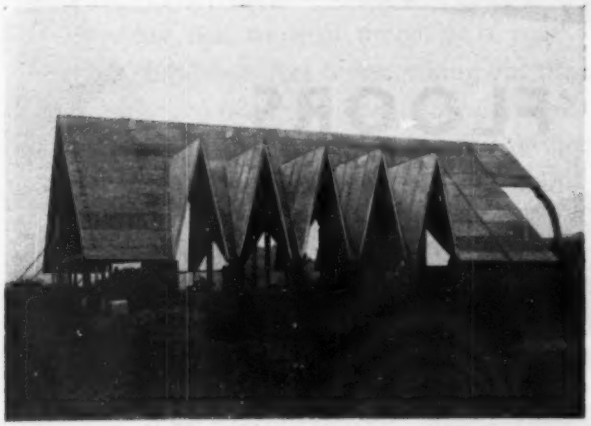
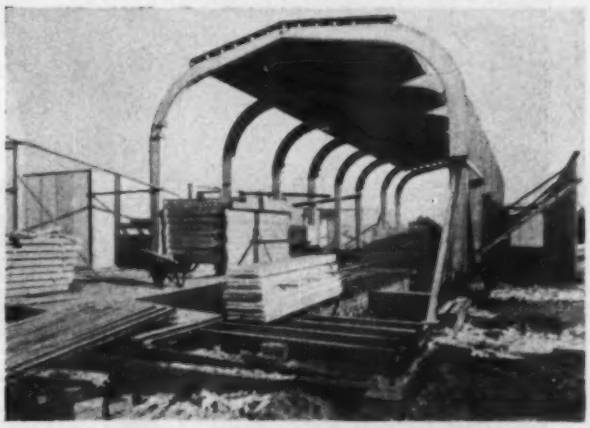


SERVICES



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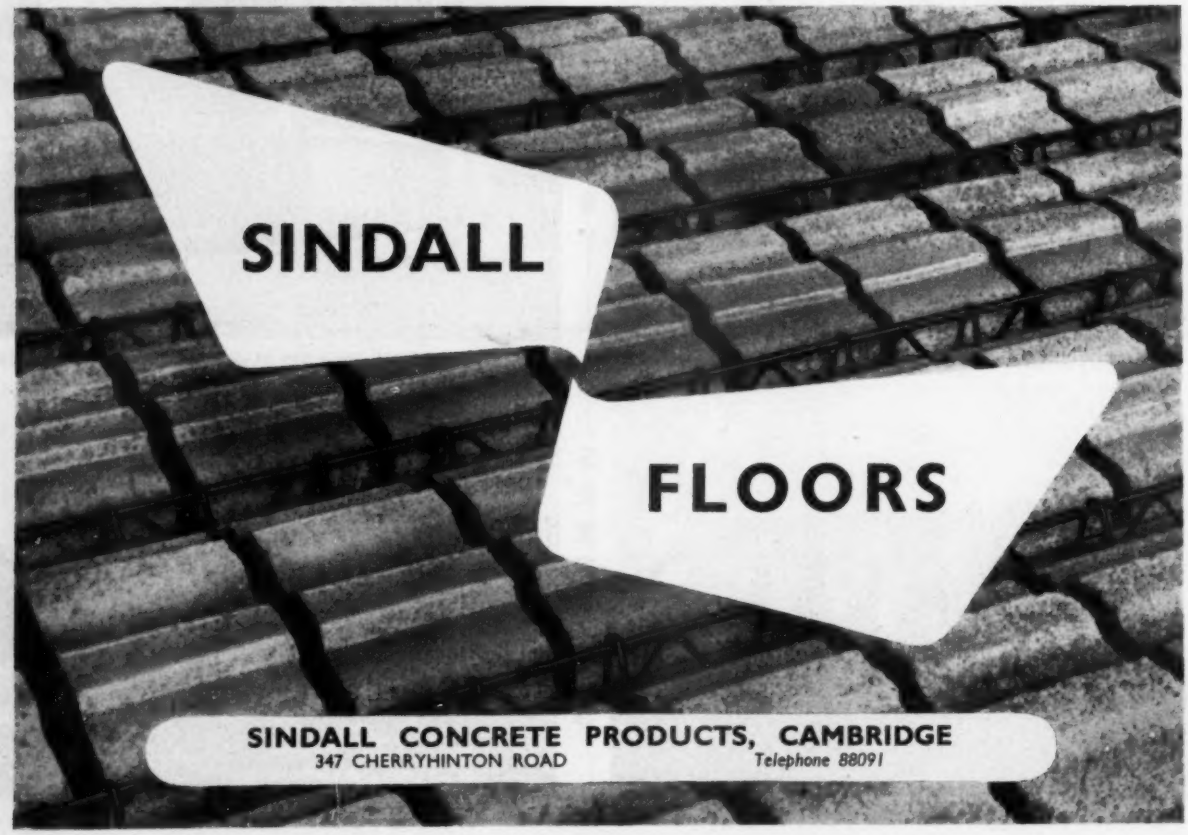

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10 June 1959

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CIVIC SURGERY OR CIVIC BUTCHERY?

AFTER decades of official inaction, the Government has awakened at the eleventh hour to the impending apoplexy of our road system and is rushing ahead with plans for the immediate construction of roadways on a scale hitherto unknown in this country.

In his impatience for quick results the Minister of Transport seems to have forgotten that a traffic artery, like an ordinary artery, is part of the living organism it serves. It is not merely a canal for motor cars and lorries, it is an integral part of town and countryside. It is this fundamental misconception which may not only produce some very mediocre roads but in doing so may strike yet another shattering blow at the rapidly vanishing beauties of this island.

There are two ways of designing a road. One can shut one's eyes to everything but the crude contours, proceed by cold mathematical rule of gradient and curve and reach a result that is inhuman and disruptive of its surroundings. Or one can survey the ground with the eye of an artist, taking note of the living shape of the land as well as its contours, and treating the buildings and trees not as obstacles but as a civilized background into which to slip the great new element—the modern highway.

The first is the way of an inhuman robot: the second is Nature's way. Our arteries and veins are not designed with engineers' curves. They fit their way past muscle and sinew and form a living entity with their surroundings.

It is a rare road engineer who is fitted by inclination or training to see things in this light and he needs the help of other types of skill. But apparently this is not to be and it is this relentless butchery which has aroused and is arousing the protests of all who care for the beauty of their surroundings.

It is this which is one of the main themes of the SPUR exhibition at the R.I.B.A. and reported in last week's issue. It is this which is causing the R.I.B.A. to make its appeals for architects to be included in the study groups which are now working away all over the country. What is needed, of course, is the fully trained architect-planner for the urban roads and the experienced landscape architect for the country roads. Both are in very short supply but they have an essential contribution to make and if the Minister of Transport is a big enough man to rise to the challenge of quality as well as quantity he will realize this before irreparable damage has been done.

EVENTS AND COMMENTS

MIES' VISIT

By all accounts the Architectural Association scored top marks among the organizations which entertained Professor Mies van der Rohe when he was here. By means of lantern slides and skilfully provocative questions from Mr. H. T. Cadbury-Brown (who is now president) Mies was gently persuaded to talk, and talk he did for more than an hour. The professor had warned the Architecture Club that he would not make a speech, but everyone hoped that he might nevertheless do so. Mr. Richard Sheppard proposed his health and was a most suitable person to do so for he has studied Mies' work for years, and has seen most of it. The professor kept his word and made only a very brief reply. The setting of the dinner, Fishmongers' Hall, was very splendid with brilliant gold encrusted coffered ceiling, the walls hung with huge portraits, trophies and swag, the polished tables reflecting the candlelight and the gold plate sparkling behind the president's chair. When asked what he thought of this room, Mies, after a long pause, said: "It is very large."

NUCLEAR POWER STATION NEAR NEWTOWN

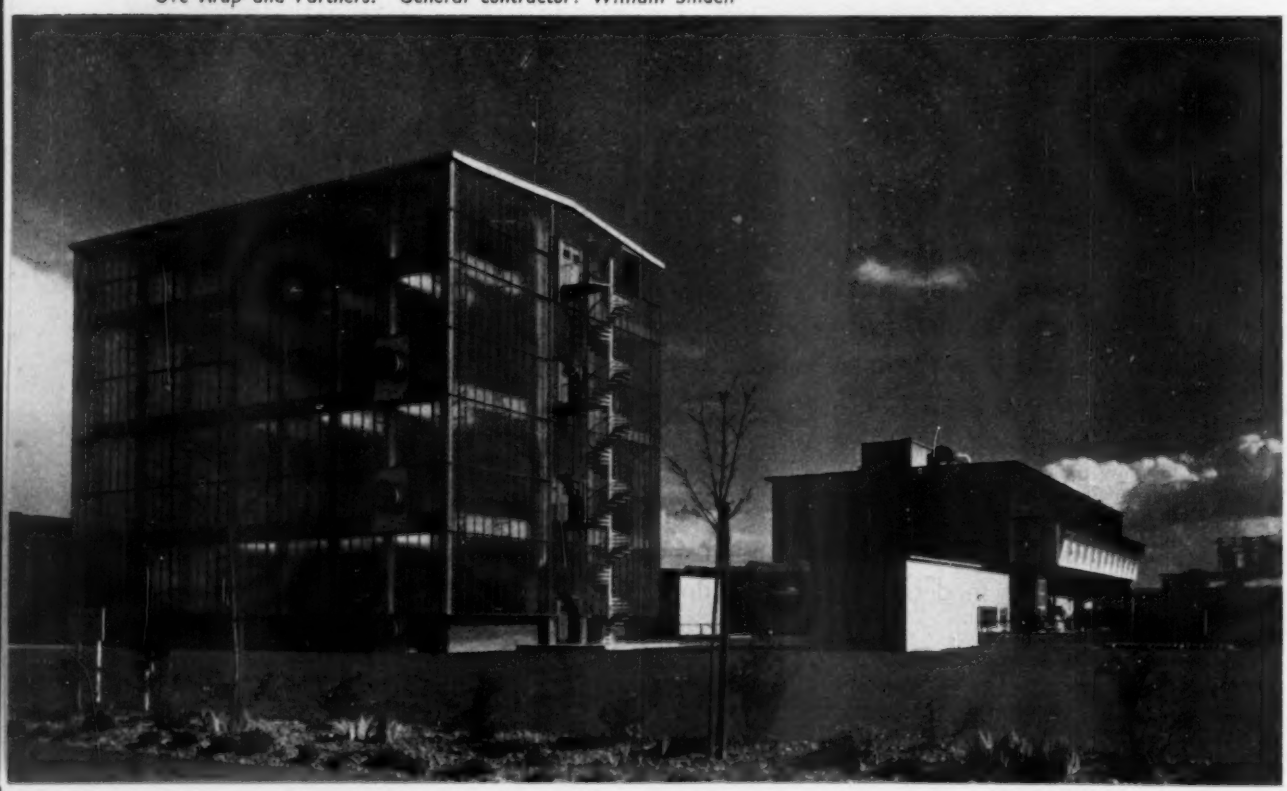
My last information of this threat to one of the most beautiful places in the Isle of Wight was that the site investigation was not proving very satisfactory to the promoters. I hope this is true. I was there two weekends ago and noticed that the pile driver, or whatever it is, was still anchored near the Hamstead Ledge buoy. My crew suggested that we might ram it or put off a boarding party to scuttle it.

There were about 25 yachts in the harbour enjoying the complete peace and stillness of this lovely anchorage. We tried to imagine what it would be like with the power station close alongside. We also tried to imagine the havoc that four years of construction work would wreak on the surroundings. We came to the conclusion that the project simply must not be allowed to proceed. The harbourmaster should be equipped with a book for collecting the names of protesters. And a fat lot of good that would do.

EATING OUT

Our neighbours, as soon as the frosts stop and provided that it is not raining cats and dogs, eat all their meals out of doors. They have a sheltered space roofed by a vine which has its roots in our garden. Though not as madly keen on the *al fresco*, we like to eat out too, but are of the opinion that it is usually too cold or too windy, or too gnat infested to do so. Nevertheless, there are occasions when supper in the garden in W.6 can be as pleasant and romantic as on a Mediterranean terrace. Individually, most of us can organize our own private eating out. Restaurants in the open air are quite another matter. We were told, in fact we probably did some telling too, that the South Bank Exhibition and the Festival Gardens at Battersea would revolutionize outdoor eating in London. They did nothing of the kind. To begin with, though the settings were provided in 1951, the atmosphere of eating out was never quite lived up to either by the food or the service. The London pub garden is the nearest thing that we have to genuine outdoor nourishment taking and what bare gardens they usually are. Our climate makes the promotion of outdoor restaurants too certain of failure for most financiers, and yet in warm spells everyone wants to eat out. Even a back yard is better than a smoke-filled interior. Some of the brighter restaurant owners have realized this and have most successfully converted their yards to extra table space with awnings against wet weather, and radiant heaters against chill summer breezes. These extensions are used all the year round and remain com-

CIBA (A.R.L.) Ltd., manufacturers of synthetic resin adhesives, celebrated, last month, the 25th anniversary of its foundation. The official celebrations included the opening of three new buildings which have cost £500,000. This view shows the new "Araldite" epoxy resin plant, with the "Aerolite" factory in the background. Consulting engineers: Ove Arup and Partners. General contractor: William Sindell



fortable to dine in, even in winter. Most of the conversions are somewhat haphazard and I am surprised that no one has yet gone into the question on a big scale. I expect that much existing work would not please the district surveyor, and that may be the answer.

For real outdoor eating there are always the parks. If you like that kind of food. Pavement eating would be more popular if only pavements were rather wider. A few restaurants in London manage to sqeeze a table or two on raised balconies on private pavements but few have room to give them any privacy.

We have progressed very little in arrangements for eating out since 1951. Perhaps this is the first summer since then that has made us think about it at all. On the other hand equipment for doing it yourself can be bought in all the shops and that remains the better plan—and is very much cheaper.

BUYING FOR COVENTRY

A price list of components, materials and furnishings for Coventry Cathedral has been prepared to help raise the £180,000 still needed to complete the building. Concrete blocks are 1s 8d a sq ft; stone £1 6s a sq ft; concrete columns £232 each; doors £60 each; chairs £7. An exhibition connected with this scheme is being staged in the ruins of the old cathedral. When visiting Guildford Cathedral one is invited to buy a brick.

CONFERENCE WISHES

I hope all the conference goers have a jolly time. If you get tired of the food in your hotel try the "Windsor" in Tiger Bay and remember to be near a TV set at 10.30 to-night. I hear it is being laid on at the reception.

ABNER

Letters to the Editor

R.I.B.A.—R.I.P.

Sir,—In another of the professional journals there has recently been an "election quiz" in respect of the forthcoming R.I.B.A. election.

It seems abortive that they should go to all the trouble of finding facts to help electors to choose suitable candidates for the R.I.B.A. Council when it is apparent that before long there will be no need for an R.I.B.A. or, indeed, the Architects' Registration Council!

By kind permission of "AD HOC" the architect has already been prostituted to the builder, and it would seem that those gentlemen of our profession who wish to make big business out of architecture may soon be able to do it under the disguise of a directorship of a building firm.

Undoubtedly, the "AD HOC" Committee who investigated the wisdom of architects being employed by builders have found them necessary in the "Big Five" building firms, and have succumbed to the preponderance of the whole set up. It is, nevertheless, obvious to both the architect and to the client that this is the first retrograde step to the demise of the architect as a professional man, independent of any detrimental influences and free to give the services to a client which the word "architect" means.

A builder is a business man and no one is going to tell him the best way to make money and certainly not an architect tucked away in a top back-room attic of a builder's office—as is often the case—and he is not going to let freedom of design, planning and control—which is an architect's calling—interfere with his business. By all means he will use the words "architecturally planned, architecturally designed, architecturally, etc. etc.", whilst such word as architect conveys that meaning which it does at the moment, but what will happen when it means no more than what the builder wants it to mean?

Now we learn that "AD HOC" may ring another deathknell to the profession if they advise that the architect should be free to develop as a builder. Why then call him an architect? He may just as well call himself a builder and let the whole profession of architecture and the trade of building deteriorate so that the cliché "the whole building supplied, packaged by the builder" can come true, unopposed and uncontrolled for the poor client by any independent person.

However, it is at least pleasant to know that there are other professional bodies, only infants to the R.I.B.A., who are eager to take over some of the control of the chaotic building and architectural profession, and can look after the interests of a client without being obscured by either being employed or being told what to do by a builder, or by being a builder himself and doing what the directors want.

In other words, as a commercial traveller in sanitary goods said to me recently, "architects are ten a penny and just as cheap" and this from a traveller who has been in his trade for over 50 years and considers his age and experience sufficient qualifications to comment to an architect about architects—an impudence which he knew he could not have indulged in 20 years ago.

If the architectural profession is sick, as it undoubtedly is, it should not hide its head in the sand or give away its birthright to builders and business tycoons, but should consolidate itself and strengthen itself, both in its institutes, its educational training and its heritage, which should be jealously guarded and not thrown away "AD HOC" (lib)!

GILBERT H. PARRY.

Building Societies and House Design

Sir,—With reference to my letter, which you so kindly published on March 25, about the formation of a group of architect investors in building societies, to consider the election of members of the profession to the boards of directors, I have to state that in consequence of this I have received a considerable number of letters in support of this suggestion.

May I now ask, in order to help reduce the correspondence on this very important matter, that architect investors themselves collect lists of other similar investors, and send these to me.

The information will be collected and be made available at the meeting which it is hoped will be called in the not-too-distant future.

Yours, etc.,
SIDNEY LOWETH.

Royal Gold Medal Filming

Sir,—In last week's issue "Abner" commiserated with Mies van der Rohe about the "ordeal by filming" which he had to sustain on Royal Gold Medal night at the R.I.B.A.

Your readers may be interested to know that C.B.S. News—a division of the Columbia Broadcasting System—are making a film on Mies and his work, and this has already been the subject of much thought and planning with him.

C.B.S. News were anxious to include the presentation of the Royal Gold Medal in their film, and it was with the approval and collaboration of Mies himself that the arrangements were made.

The R.I.B.A. would, I know, regret any discomfort which may have been caused to guests, but as the producer wished to include pictures of the audience in the film it was not practicable to stage a special "mock-up" evening for the purpose.

The film will be available in this country sometime next year and will, we hope, become a distinguished addition to the library of films on architectural topics, which is still so short of good material.

Yours, etc.,
STANLEY MEYRICK,
Chairman, R.I.B.A., Film Sub-Committee.

NEWS

Architectural Competition : New Hospital

An architectural competition for a new general hospital of 464 beds, to be built in two phases on an open site at Boston, Lincolnshire, was announced in the Commons recently by the Minister of Health, Mr. Derek Walker-Smith, Q.C.

The Sheffield Regional Hospital Board, who are promoting the competition, have appointed Murray Easton, a past-president, R.I.B.A., as sole assessor. The opening date of the competition will be announced shortly, when copies of the conditions and other necessary documents will be obtainable from the secretary, Sheffield Regional Hospital Board, Fulwood House, Old Fulwood Road, Sheffield, 10.

This is the second hospital competition announced recently. The competition for a medical teaching centre at Cardiff (650-800 beds) was noted in the A. & B.N. on April 8.

Architect Wins "Concrete" Medal

The medal of the Reinforced Concrete Association for 1958 has been awarded to W. A. Gibbon, M.A., A.R.I.B.A., a partner in the firm of Cruikshank & Seward, chartered architects, Manchester. The medal is awarded annually for a paper "which shall contribute knowledge about reinforced concrete and its uses, or otherwise advance the art, science or practice of reinforced concrete design and construction". Mr. Gibbon's paper dealt with "The Architectural Expression of Structural Concrete", a subject which he has studied extensively on the Continent. This is the first time that the medal has been awarded to an architect.

Five Schemes Chosen in London Roads Competition

Five schemes have been chosen from the 54 entries for the Roads Campaign Council's £4,000 traffic competition, "New Ways for London". They are by Dr. Boileau, G.E. Chadwick and D. F. Medhurst, Town and Country Planning School, University of Manchester; P. Brigham, G. E. Latter and B. Mecartney, London; I. W. Morrison, Doodlakime, Western Australia; J. A. Proudlove, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Liverpool; W. K. Smigielski, M.T.P.I., Rawdon, nr. Leeds.

The finalists now have to submit detailed schemes and models by October 30, when they will each receive £250. The first three will receive additional sums bringing their prizes to £2,000, £1,000 and £500.

The entries were assessed privately in London by Sir William Holford, F.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I., Professor of Town Planning, University College, London; Professor W. Fisher Cassie, PH.D., F.R.S.E., M.I.C.E., Professor of Civil Engineering, King's College, University of Durham; and Mr. C. D. Buchanan, B.SC., A.R.I.B.A., A.M.I.C.E., M.T.P.I., author of *Mixed Blessing: The Motor in Britain*.

The assessors said today: "These five schemes are capable of development in the final stage and represent a very considerable effort on the part of the competitors to solve comprehensively and in a far-sighted manner an extremely difficult problem."

Joint Consultative Committee in Conference

A national conference of architects, quantity surveyors and builders have sent a resolution to the Minister of Works expressing their grave concern at the nation-wide shortage of bricks (particularly flettons) which, they say, threatens to cause severe dislocation throughout the building industry. They ask that the Minister of Works should arrange a meeting of those concerned to consider means of improving brick supplies and, as they consider that the brick shortage appears to be the result of sudden changes of official policy towards building, they also ask the Government to encourage more long-term programmes of major building works, similar to those recently announced by the Minister of Education.

The conference, of the National Joint Consultative Committee of Architects, Quantity Surveyors and Builders, together with the chairman of the ten regional joint consultative committees, was held on May 29 with Mr. G. W. Grosvenor, C.B.E., in the chair.

Members were told that a standard form of estimate for nominated sub-contractors had now been drafted and was likely to be published shortly.

A draft code of tendering procedure—approved by the R.I.B.A., R.I.C.S. and N.F.B.T.E.—was to be considered, when printed, at an open meeting at the R.I.B.A. at which representatives of building owners and the Press were to be welcome.

The conference also considered the possibility of architects bringing the builder into consultation early in the planning stages of the project while still preserving an element of competition, and tendering for specialist works with the opportunity for builders and contractors to tender for works which they are fully qualified to carry out.

Professional Announcement

Due to demolition and redevelopment, C. Wycliffe Noble & Partners have moved their practice to 273 King's Road, Chelsea. Mr. Noble may be consulted in an annexe of the practice now established at The William and Mary House, 106 French Street, Sunbury-on-Thames (telephone: Sunbury 3879).

New Approach to Blackwall Tunnel

One of the many points of traffic congestion in London, the northern approaches to Blackwall Tunnel, is in process of change, and the pattern of this change can now be seen in road excavation, fly-under construction, and partly completed "clover leaf" junction. These road works are a joint enterprise between Holland & Hannen and Cubitts (Great Britain) Ltd. and Fitzpatrick & Sons (Contractors) Ltd., two specialist contractors joining for mutual benefit under the "banner" Cubitts Fitzpatrick. The advantages to this kind of co-operation, more familiar in the States, could be seen by the Press at a visit to this site last Thursday. In spite of a re-programming due to a diversion of the existing 48in gas main, and an unexpectedly high water-table, the works are on schedule and the contractors, plus L.C.C. engineers, showed all the confidence of successful men.

This road pattern will be completed by late spring next year and the excavation of a new tunnel is expected to commence by the end of the current year. With two single-flow tunnels and efficient dual-carriage approaches the "black hole" of Blackwall (opened for horse-drawn and pedestrian traffic in 1897) will give efficient sub-Thames transit for the motor vehicle of today.

Symposium: Aluminium in Building

A symposium on aluminium in building has been arranged by the Aluminium Development Association and will be held at the Royal Institute of British Architects, 66 Portland Place, W.1, on July 9 and 10.

Some 14 papers will be introduced, reporting in detail the advances made in the use of aluminium, some of them very recent and significant to future trends. There will be three sessions for discussion: aluminium as a building material, as curtain walling, and its building applications.

The principal objects of the symposium are to provide a forum for the free exchange of views between architects and builders on the one hand, and the aluminium industry on the other; to receive suggestions and criticism which will help to develop further new items by the aluminium

industry and manufacturers, and to indicate future possibilities for extending the usefulness of this material.

Papers will be sent in advance to those registering for attendance and will later be published, together with discussions, as a bound volume. The symposium is opened to architects, builders, contractors' engineers and others with qualifications and experience in the building industries. Early application is advised to The Aluminium Development Association, 33 Grosvenor Street, London, W.1.

Law and Administration

Underground Rooms

There were, at one time, a huge number of underground rooms in use as dwellings in the big towns which were totally unfit for such a purpose. The *Housing Act, 1936*, contained powers, in Section 12, which enabled local authorities to take appropriate steps to close such rooms, as distinct from taking action about the entire house involved in each instance.

These powers worked satisfactorily until 1954, when in that year the *Housing Repairs and Rents Act* was passed. Section 9 of that Act provided for the first time a statutory definition of what was to be regarded as relevant in determining whether a *house* was unfit for human habitation. This Section made no reference to underground rooms and was plainly not intended to affect that matter. Unfortunately, however, when the matter came before the Court of Appeal in the case of *Critchell v. Lambeth Borough Council*, they held that Section 9 of the 1954 Act must be held to have "superseded" the provisions of Section 12 of the 1936 Act. In other words, the test of the suitability of underground rooms for habitation was not, in future, to be the regulations made by local authorities for that purpose under Section 12 of the 1936 Act, but the tests (and meant only to apply to a whole house) set out in Section 9 of the 1954 act.

Both these Sections were re-enacted in an unamended form in the *Housing Act, 1957*. Unhappily, the Critchell case came too late to amend the 1957 Act to take account of that decision. The result of the case has been much criticized both on grounds of common sense and of law. As a result, Mr. Robert Jenkins, M.P., introduced a Private Member's Bill into the House of Commons designed to restore the position. That Bill has now received the Royal Assent as the *Housing (Underground Rooms) Act, 1959*.

The Act is agreeably short, consisting of only two Sections. It provides that the statutory definition of unfitness for human habitation, now set out in Section 4 of the *Housing Act, 1957*, shall *not* affect the operation of those special provisions relating to underground rooms which now appear in Section 18 of that Act. The consequent amendments made in the 1957 Act become effective on June 14, 1959.

House Purchase

On the same day in June the *House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959*, comes in operation. In broad terms the Act will enable trustee status to be conferred upon certain *building societies*. In order to be eligible such societies must satisfy certain conditions which will be laid down in regulations yet to be made by the Treasury. When a society is so recognized, it will be able to borrow money from the Exchequer to lend it on advantageous terms for the purchase of houses built before 1919 and valued at not more than £2,500 (or £3,000 in London).

The Act also makes new provisions for the making of improvement grants. These new grants, to be called "standard grants", are to be made by local authorities towards the provision of what are described as standard amenities, e.g., hot water supply, w.c., bath, and food storage. The grants will be obtainable as of right by owners of houses provided that the house was built before 1944 or the dwelling concerned is a conversion made before 1959 of such a house, and, of course, that the works themselves be approved. The grants are to be one-half of the costs incurred on the work up to a maximum amount of £150. There are, naturally, a number of conditions which will attach to the receipt of a grant.

The Act also contains a number of important miscellaneous and consequential provisions. This Act *does* extend to Scotland. The grant arrangements made in the past have not proved to be an unqualified success. The present scheme certainly seems more promising, but it may be doubted whether they will be very far-reaching in there effects.

Coming Events

Royal Institute of British Architects

June 16 at 6 p.m. Council Election Results. "Spence on Safari", by Basil Spence, R.I.B.A. At 66 Portland Place, W.1.

Architects' Christian Union

June 18. Reception 7 to 8.30 p.m. Guest speakers: Rev. Bruce Reed, Kirby Laing and Kenneth White, A.R.I.B.A. Buffet from 6.30 p.m. In the Henry Jarvis Hall, R.I.B.A., 66 Portland Place, W.1.

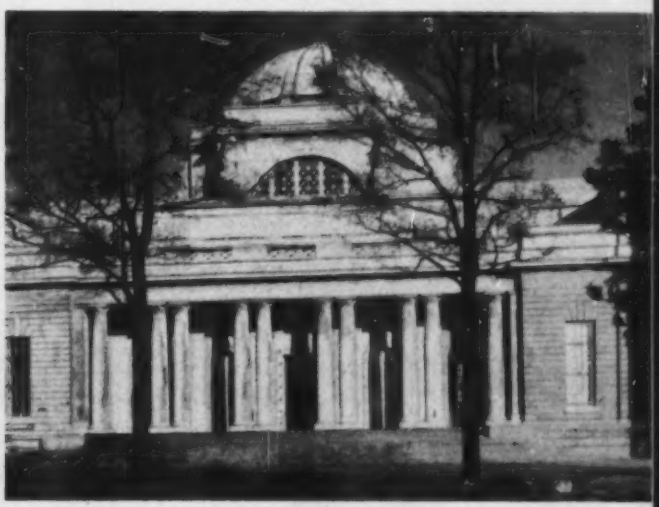
Institute of Landscape Architects

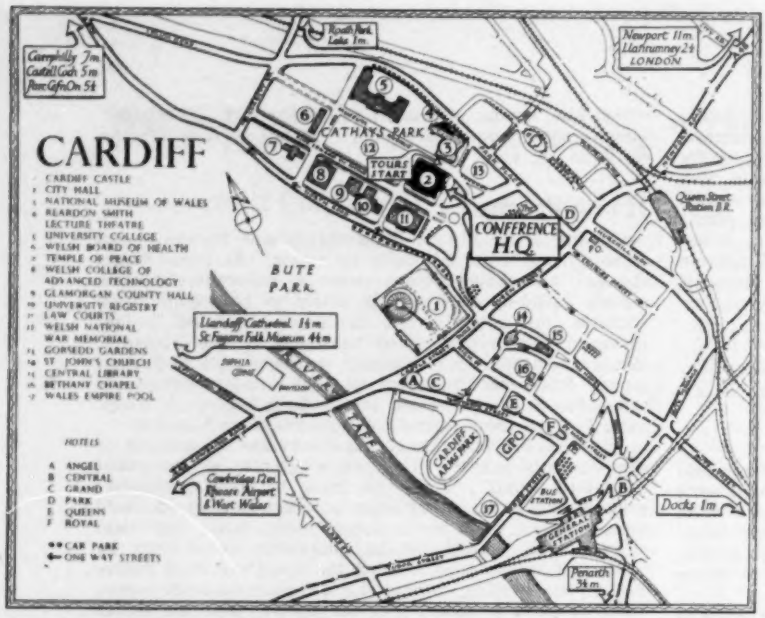
June 18 at 6.15 p.m. Annual general meeting. At 1 Park Crescent, Portland Place, W.1.

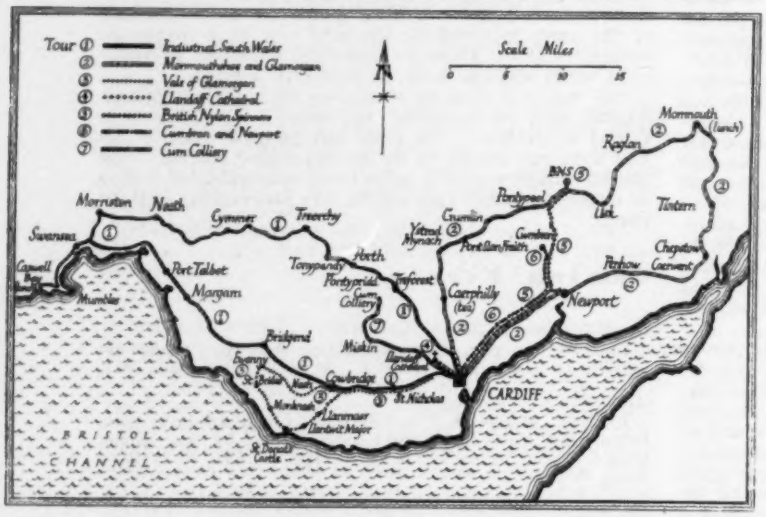
Town and Country Planning Association

June 26 at 9 a.m. Day study tour No. 2: Chichester and the west Sussex coast. Cost: members £2, non-members £2 5s, Applications to 28 King Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2.

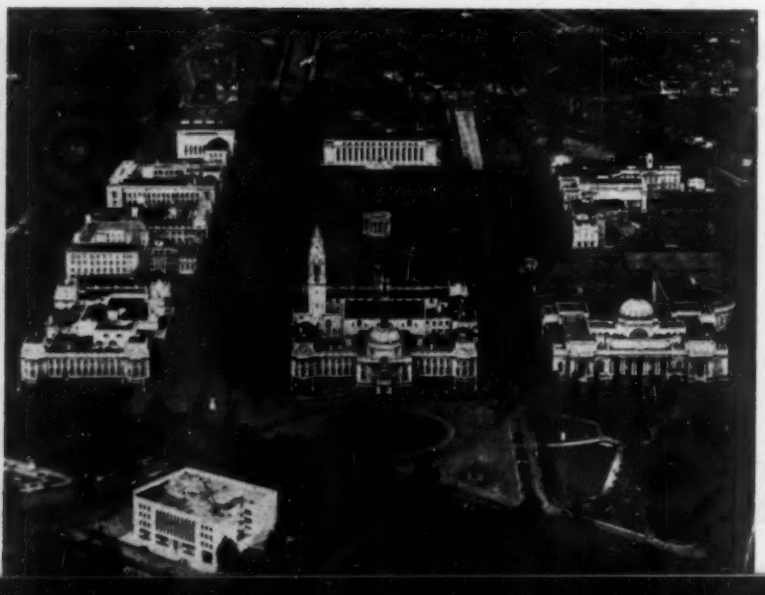
The R.I.B.A. Conference in Cardiff holds its inaugural meeting tomorrow in the Reardon Smith Lecture Theatre at the National Museum of Wales. The museum is shown below (right); the entrance to the lecture theatre is on the right of the building, on the Park Place frontage. The picture on the left shows an ancient stone circle in front of the museum







Below, aerial view with Civic Centre in foreground, Welsh National War Memorial and, beyond it, the Welsh Board of Health building. On the left are: the Law Courts, University Registry, Glamorgan County Hall and the Welsh College of Advanced Technology. On the right is the National Museum of Wales, the Reardon Smith Lecture Theatre and University College



PROGRAMME
JUNE 10 - JUNE 13

Conference H.Q.,
City Hall,
Cardiff

Wednesday, June 10

8.30 p.m. to 11.15 p.m. — Informal reception at the City Hall, Cardiff, a which members will be the guests of the South Wales Institute of Architects.

Thursday, June 11

9.30 a.m. to 12.15 p.m. — Inaugural meeting in the Reardon Smith Lecture Theatre at the National Museum of Wales. Address of welcome by the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Alderman Mrs. Helena Evans. Inaugural address by Basil Spence, O.B.E., T.D., A.R.A., A.R.S.A., president R.I.B.A. Theme: the role of the architect in efficient building. "Architectural Management", articles by W. S. Gauldie, F.R.I.B.A., and A. F. S. Wright, M.B.E., F.R.I.B.A., and papers by A. G. Sheppard Fidler, M.A., B.Arch., A.M.T.P.I., vice-president R.I.B.A., and Alick Low, F.R.I.B.A.

1.45 p.m. to 2.15 p.m. — Study Group at the Park Hotel.

2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. — Garden party at St. Fagan's Castle, by kind permission of the curator, Dr. Iorweth C. Peate, F.S.A. Welsh Folk Museum, including chapel, farmhouses, and craft workshops where traditional Welsh crafts are carried on.

8.30 p.m. to 1.0 a.m. — Civic reception and dance at the City Hall, by kind invitation of the Lord Mayor and Corporation.

Friday, June 12

10.0 a.m. to 1.0 p.m. — Continuation of Thursday's discussion.

Morning. — *Tour No. 1—Industrial South Wales, including Abbey Steelworks and the Rhondda Valley.* Museum Avenue — Bridgend — Pyle — Steel Company of Wales — Margam Works (coffee) — Swansea — Mumbles (lunch at Caswell Bay Hotel) — Swansea Civic Centre (Brangwyn Panels) — Swansea Town Centre — Neath — Pontrhydyfen — Rhondda Valley — Treorchy — Pontypridd — Cathays Park — Cardiff at 5.30 p.m. (whole day).

Tour No. 2—Monmouthshire and Glamorgan. Museum Avenue — Newport — Chepstow (Castles and Roman settlement) — Tintern Abbey (coffee) — Monmouth (lunch) — Monmouth Close — Usk — Pontypool — Hafodyrynys — Pontllanfraith — Caerphilly Castle (tea) — Thornhill — Cathays Park — Cardiff at 5.30 p.m. (whole day).

Afternoon. — *Tour No. 3—Vale of Glamorgan.* Museum Avenue — St. Nicholas — Bonvilston — St. Hilary — Llantwit Major — St. Donat's Castle — St. Brides — Ogmore — Ewenny (Priory) — Cowbridge (tea) — Cathays Park — Cardiff 5.30 p.m. (half day).

Tour No. 4—Llandaff Cathedral.

Tour No. 5—British Nylon Spinners, Pontypool.

Tour No. 6—Cumbran New Town and Newport Housing Schemes.

Tour No. 7—Cwm Colliery, near Llantrisant. Surface buildings with underground visit for those who wish it.

7.30 p.m. for 8.0 p.m. — Conference Dinner at City Hall.

Saturday, June 13

Informal visits to places of interest.

BRITISH ARCHITECTS' CONFERENCE CARDIFF, 1959

The last time a British Architects' Conference was held in the area of the South Wales Institute of Architects was 1922. This week's occasion is being celebrated in Cardiff by the holding of an exhibition, "A Country Builds", at the City Hall, for which architects from North Wales, Monmouthshire and the West have joined forces with the South Wales Institute to give a national flavour to what is being shown. The exhibition will be in four sections to show: 1, The main building periods, covering the Roman occupation, Norman and medieval times, etc. 2, The impact of the Industrial Revolution and the changes it brought. 3, "Today": a pictorial summary of the best post-war era building. 4, "Tomorrow": showing the opportunities and challenge which will have to be met.

In this issue, we have dealt, as in previous ones, with: the conference programme; a short essay on the countryside by Corelli Barnett; and a review of some current work carried out in the conference area

Cardiff Castle from the air

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CONFERENCE PERSONALITIES

1. JOHNSON BLACKETT, F.R.I.B.A., A.I.STRUC.E., representing North Wales on the conference committee, has been borough architect for Newport, Monmouthshire, since 1945. From 1919 to 1922, studied at Liverpool University. In 1927 awarded the Institution of Structural Engineers Brenforce travelling scholarship and the Gold Medal for aesthetic design and thesis in concrete and reinforced concrete. Won a Festival of Britain award in 1951. 1956, awarded R.I.B.A. distinction in town planning.

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Mr. Blackett regards the three most important executive functions of the architect as: (1) Office organization: (2) Exhaustive preparation; (3) Staff control.

2. STANLEY HALL COX, A.R.I.B.A., is the executive officer for the conference exhibition. He was articled at Cardiff from 1934 to 1938; assistant to Smith & Wilson, Cardiff, 1938 to 1949; worked with Sir Percy Thomas & Son, 1949 to 1953; and rejoined Smith & Wilson in July, 1954, as a partner in the firm.

Asked for his views on efficient building he says: "I hold the same views as my partner, W. G. Wilson, who, incidentally, undertakes the bulk of job administration and executive function".

3. JOHN EYNON, DIP. ARCH., A.R.I.B.A., is editor of the S.W.I.A. *Journal* and a member of the conference committee. Full-time lecturer at the Welsh School. Also has "a modest private practice" in association with T. Alwyn Lloyd & Gordon.

He considers the three most important executive functions leading to efficient building are: (1) The best possible briefing and liaison within the building team, including the client; (2) Cost planning and analysis at all levels within that team; (3) Preplanning at all stages of a scheme, with particular reference to supplying the right information to the right person at the right time.

4. ALEX GORDON, DIP.ARCH., A.R.I.B.A., is chairman of the publicity and exhibition sub-committee; and a member of the R.I.B.A. Public Relations Committee and the Arts Council. After the war he completed his studies at the Welsh School of Architecture and was awarded a diploma with special distinction. He joined T. Alwyn Lloyd in partnership in general practice and in conjunction with him was awarded the R.I.B.A. Bronze Medal for South Wales for the post-war period to 1956.

The three most important executive functions which he has found most effective in efficient building are: (1) Awareness of the relative importance of all contributory factors; (2) Ability to bring order out of the chaos created by these factors; (3) Integrity, reliability and responsibility.

5. CYRIL AUBREY HUGHES, L.R.I.B.A., president S.W.I.A., a member of the conference committee, and executive committee, and a former member of the Society of Architects. Senior partner of the firm of Cyril A. Hughes & Son.

The three most important executive functions of the architect in efficient building are, he says: (1) Early consultation with quantity surveyor and specialists; (2) Completion of all detail drawings and documents before invitation to tender; (3) Complete programming of works on the signing of the contract.

6. LEWIS JOHN, M.A., B.ARCH., F.R.I.B.A., a member of the conference committee, and the executive committee, is the head of the Welsh School of Architecture. Studied at the Liverpool University School of Architecture, and was in private practice before joining the Welsh School as a part-time lecturer more than 30 years ago.

Mr. Lewis John regards the most important executive function of the architect as the organization of the building team (builder, quantity surveyor) and of the job from the very beginning.

7. W. S. GAULDIE, F.R.I.B.A., F.R.I.A.S., vice-president of the Dundee Institute of Architects, has been a member of the Council of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland since 1954. Lectures on professional practice in the School of Architecture and on housing and planning in the Department of Social Medicine, Queen's College, University of Saint Andrew's. Studied at the Dundee College of Art. He has worked with Frank Thomson, of Dundee, was an assistant at the Dundee School of Architecture from 1943 to 1945 and has had his own practice from 1945.

8. ARTHUR F. S. WRIGHT, M.B.E., F.R.I.B.A., F.R.I.A.S., who is a member of the Council of the Dundee Institute of Architects, lectures on specification and building materials at Dundee School of Architecture. He was also educated at Dundee College of Art. He has worked with Thoms & Wilkie, Dundee, and joined Gauldie in partnership from 1948.

W. S. Gauldie and Arthur F. S. Wright are partners in the firm of Gauldie, Hardie, Wright & Needham, of Dundee, and are authors of the articles which are to be discussed at the R.I.B.A. conference.

Together they say that the architect's three most important executive functions seem to be: (1) Accurate and realistic programming of his own drawing-office work; (2) Making clear and prompt decisions; (3) Firm control over work in course of construction.

9. HOWEL MENDUS, L.R.I.B.A., is a member of the conference committee, was a pupil with J. Herbert Jones, F.R.I.B.A., Swansea, and studied part-time at the Swansea Technical College and Northern Polytechnic, London. He was later employed by the Ministry of Agriculture (survey branch), the L.C.C. housing department and Marshall & Tweedy, London. He joined Sir Percy Thomas &

Son in 1947 and is now an associate partner.

Apart from design the architect's most important functions are, he says: (1) To ensure a clear client-architect-builder relationship; (2) To programme correctly at all stages; (3) To press for ever higher quality of workmanship.

10. STEPHEN THOMAS, A.R.I.B.A., is conference committee chairman and chairman of the handbook sub-committee. He was articled with the borough architect, Newport, from 1927 to 1930, and has been in practice on his own account since 1935.

He thinks that probably the three most important executive functions of the architect are: (1) Pre-planning—which enables full, clear drawings, schedules, and instructions with the commencing order; (2) The obtaining of tenders from a list of selected contractors, who have proved themselves. This also applies to nominated suppliers and sub-contractors; (3) Full co-ordination between architect, builder, and sub-contractors.

11. NORMAN PERCY THOMAS, M.B.E., T.D., D.L., DIP.ARCH., A.R.I.B.A., chairman of the tours sub-committee, was educated at the Welsh School of Architecture (diploma with distinction); was awarded the R.I.B.A. Archibald Dawnay scholarship and honourable mention bronze medal in 1935; and was finalist in the Tite, Victory and Rome scholarships. He joined Sir Percy Thomas in partnership when the present firm of Sir Percy Thomas & Son was formed. R.I.B.A. practice committee, 1952-56.

His views on the role of the architect in efficient building: (1) The maintenance by the architect on the initiative as leader of the building team and ensuring, by his influence, that planning in all phases of the project is properly controlled and programmed; (2) The selection and allocation of suitable staff to a project, ensuring that the maximum possible encouragement is given to all those engaged, thus ensuring that every member of the team can give fully of his particular abilities; (3) To keep constantly before one the necessity for exercising the utmost economy in all building compatible with good design and durability.

12. L. W. DESMOND WALL, DIP.ARCH., A.R.I.B.A., is chairman, accommodation reception and banquets sub-committee, and a member of the conference committee. He has been chairman, honorary secretary, and is at present honorary treasurer of the S.W.I.A. (eastern branch). Deputy borough architect, Newport. Articled in Newport and studied at the School of Art, 1929 to 1932. Welsh School of Architecture until 1937, where he was awarded a number of prizes and a diploma with distinction.

He considers the three most important factors in efficient building to be: (1) A full, accurate and firm briefing from the client; (2) Bringing consultants into the picture at an early stage on the job as members of a team led by the architect; (3) Control by the architect on the site without interfering with the proper functions of the builder.

13. D. GARBUTT WALTON, F.R.I.B.A., is secretary of the conference committee. He was educated at the Nottingham and Birmingham Schools of Architecture. He is at present architect to the Welsh Regional Hospital Board.

The most important executive functions in efficient building are, in his opinion: (1) The skill of the tradesmen in their respective crafts; (2) The confidence which is created by this efficiency; (3) The speed which is thereby gained; the latter being particularly important when working within the limits of the financial year.

14. W. G. WILSON, A.R.I.B.A., member of the conference committee, is secretary S.W.I.A. Articled for four years and then went to the Royal Academy Schools from 1933 to 1936. Since 1944 he has been a partner in the firm of Smith, Wilson & Cox, Cardiff.

He regards the three most important executive functions of the architect to be: (1) Understanding one's clients and the needs and uses to which he will subject the building, so that by research one may assist him forward by planning his present needs and making provision for expansion without disorganizing the layout; (2) Effective building team of consultants and general contractor, including foremen, with instructions stemming from one source; (3) Regular site meetings and the encouragement of good relations with the building operatives.

15. A. G. SHEPPARD FIDLER, M.A., B.ARCH., DIP.C.D., R.I.B.A.(DIST.T.P.), A.M.T.P.I., and vice-president of the R.I.B.A., who, together with Alick Low, will lead the conference discussion on Gauldie & Wright's articles, is city architect of Birmingham.

He says: "I am certain that in these days of big business and big organizations the architect must show himself to be a first-class efficient business man. Otherwise leadership in the design of buildings will gradually but inevitably go to the man who will give good and speedy service to the building owner. An interest in office management and procedure is therefore essential to the modern age, and this needs study and practical application for architects are not born with an automatic genius for organizing. The long-haired architect, inefficient, but artistic, should be and soon will be extinct. Building is now a complex business in which good design is only possible if it is coupled with an ability to organize and direct."

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16. ALICK LOW, F.R.I.B.A., is a partner in Norman & Dawbarn. He studied architecture by evening classes at the Regent Street Polytechnic. He was with Maxwell Fry and Norman & Dawbarn before the war, returning to the latter after the war. He has been mostly concerned with overseas work, particularly in Jamaica on the University College of the West Indies.

Alick Low says the three most important executive functions of the architect in producing an efficient building are: (1) The ability to act as a team leader; (2) That he should accept complete responsibility for the whole of a building project and should arrange his organization accordingly; (3) That his education should be of such a standard that he takes into consideration automatically the cultural, technical and administrative aspects of his job.

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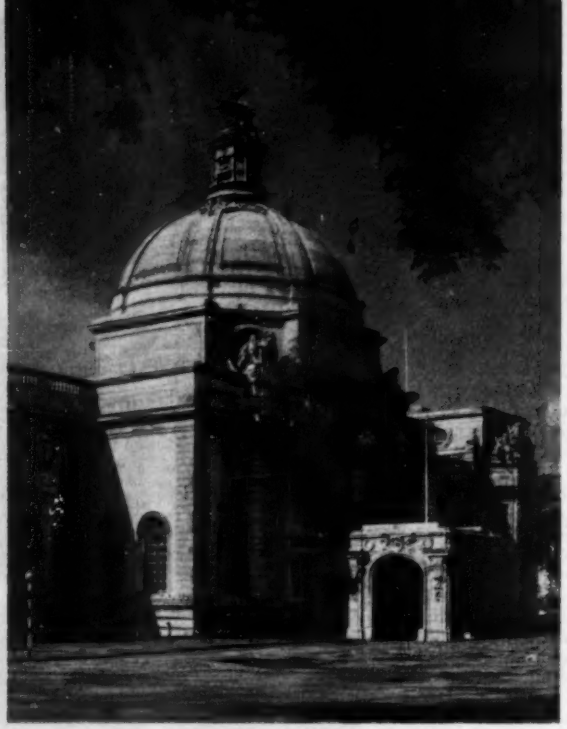
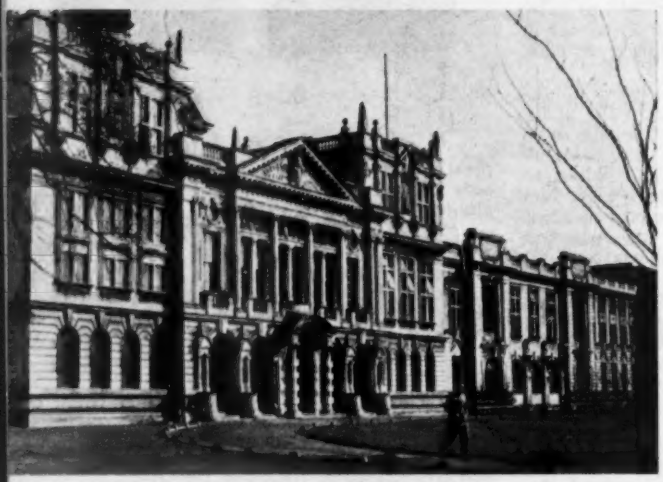
CADWALLADER AND HIS GOATS

CORELLI BARNETT

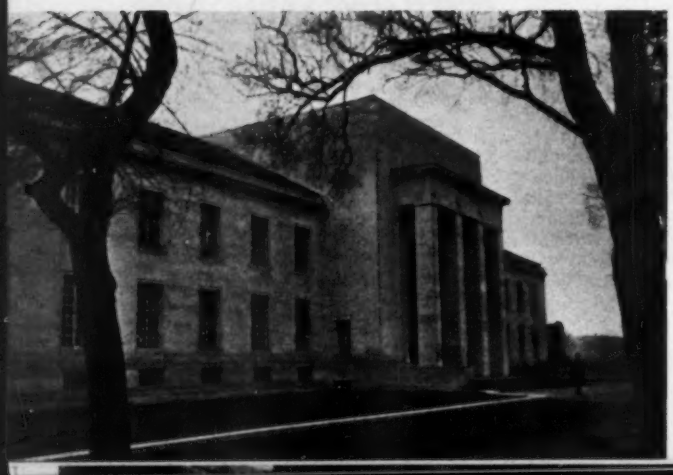


Cardiff City Hall: conference H.Q.



Other majestic buildings: University College

National Temple of Peace and Health



FOR a thousand years the English have been trying to turn the Welsh into good Englishmen, but the Welsh remain Celtic, or Goidelic, only perhaps a little more so. Any Englishman will tell you that you cannot take a bus-ride anywhere in Wales without hearing the passengers singing a song about (so it sounds) saucepans at the top of their voices. Though it is five-hundred and fourty-four years since Ancient Pistol told Fluellen that not for Cadwallader and all his goats would he eat leek, there is no sign of its disappearance from English or, for that matter, from Welsh diet. The Welsh then are foreign; and, in fact, the very name (Anglo-Saxon *wealas*) means just that. The Welsh call themselves *Cymru* or comrades, and anyone who has seen a Saturday night fight in a Cardiff pub will appreciate the Celtic poetry of this appellation. If the Welsh Nationalist Movement ever moves on from bearded schoolmasters demonstrating, to hard-eyed men mining roads and taking pot-shots at the occupying power, there will be a frontier just east of Cardiff, unless the future Welsh Government is revisionist and demands the return of Monmouthshire. For Monmouth, though not everyone seems to know it, is an English county, and therefore this year's R.I.B.A. Conference tours are half-Welsh, half-English.

South Wales and Monmouth provide a mixed bag in the way of architecture. Members of the conference will see no example of the work of perhaps the most distinguished architect of Welsh blood—Frank Lloyd Wright—but by way of compensation there is the Cardiff Civic Centre in Cathays Park, built around the time of Wright's earlier work (the Robie House, Chicago, for example). In this prize example of *Le Style Pompier*, the conference will move and have its being. It is as though the Grand and Petit Palais had come to Cardiff and pupped (I know, I know, not original). A poor man's New Delhi, it comprises a couple of triumphal avenues through the park, leading from nothing in particular to nowhere in particular, but passing on their way the City Hall (in the middle) and the National Museum of Wales and Law Courts on either side. These three make up the main composition. Do not let "Law Courts" whet your appetite; this is not Dublin. Ranged down either side of Cathays (pronounced "Cattays", by the way) Park are other majestic works of civic architecture: the University College and other university blocks, a Temple of Peace. In the middle of the park is the Welsh National War Memorial (Corinthian). As the rain sweeps across the scene, depositing soot and grit from the coal-mining regions, and the convoluted statuary encrusting the buildings weep silently on to the grass, do not be too hard; remember that, unlike New Delhi, Dublin or Chandigarh, it was all paid for out of the rates.

Apart from the Civic Centre, Cardiff is just a provincial British city, and the wanderer will find pretty much what he might expect to find. The docks give it character, and they are considerable docks—165 acres

of water. Round the port area—in Butetown—Wales reaches its most cosmopolitan air. Shop names appear of almost every race, and the streets abound in seafarers of all pink, yellow, coffee and black pigmentations. Since Cardiff is a bit thin on great architecture, Butetown may well recommend itself for a ramble.

Cardiff Castle looks magnificent; you never saw anything more romantically or sternly Norman as this toy castle on a mound. This is no wonder, for its present appearance is owing to the work of William Burgess in 1869; and his vision of the Middle Ages was as toylike and romantic as one could hope, as his decorations for his own house in Melbury Road, Kensington, show. There is, however, a Roman earthwork and gate (the north gate) which are worth seeing. For Cardiff was a Roman station, and this is how it got its name: Caer Dydd (as it is in Welsh), the *castra* of Aulus Didius. While near the castle, have a look at St. John's Church—pleasant perpendicular tower of the kind you can take your pick of in Somerset or East Anglia, but which have a scarcity value here. A bus ride of more than two miles (nothing of course in the Bentley) takes you to Llandaff and Llandaff Cathedral. Basically early English, it bears signs of the want of wealth of the principality in the Middle Ages and after, having no transepts. It was badly damaged by German bombs in 1941 and by a local disciple of Pugin in 1869, when the south tower was rebuilt and the whole fabric "restored." In the middle of the nave is a modern contribution to beauty and devotional art in a kind of flying arch of buttress in concrete, which spans the nave, and supports an organ case adorned with a 16ft-high statue of Christ in Majesty, executed by Sir Jacob Epstein in aluminium. The Bishop's Palace is represented by a surviving fourteenth-century gatehouse.

East of Cardiff stretches the beautiful county of Monmouth. There is the valley of the Wye, with the famous beauty "spot" of Symonds Yat, now spotty in the fly-blown sense of all objects of Admass pilgrimage, just over the border into Herefordshire. The county town has elegance and charm and antiquity: the eighteenth century provided the Shire Hall, the thirteenth a gateway over the River Monnow, a reminiscence of the Pont Valentré at Cahors, unique in Britain. If you have a nostalgia for the days when British admirals flew their flags in ships of the line and not mine-sweepers, call at the Museum at Rolls Hall and inspect the collection of Nelsoniana. Downstream from Monmouth is Tintern Abbey, sublime alike in architecture and setting. Interesting that a nation of three million peasants could find the resources for a dozen Tinterns, as well as cathedrals, while we cannot find the resources to keep such fabrics in good repair. (What was the total expenditure on TV services and reception last year?) The abbey church was consecrated in 1288. Barring the crossing of the lower Wye, some two miles before that river flows into the Severn, is the stern, fortified town of Chepstow, its girdling walls a reminder of the days when the Welsh were knocked on the head before they could become successful British politicians. The castle is something right out of a Gothic novel: grim and tremendous, hanging like a frown over the river from the top of its rock. As a contrast in style there is a tubular railway bridge over the Wye, product of an age as grim and massive as the Norman—built 1852, I. Brunel, engineer.

The Romans as well as the Normans appreciated the military significance of Monmouthshire in holding

St. John's Church: pleasant perpendicular tower

Welsh National War Memorial, by J. N. Comber

Without comment: statue for fishermen, Llantwit Major

CADWALLADER AND HIS GOATS

down the hill tribes of Cambria. One of the three legions in Britain was stationed here for over three hundred years—Augusta II. Their camp and headquarters lay at Isca, called by the Welsh Caerleon, or camp of legion. This is the same place-name as Leon in north-west Spain. This garrison town, a sort of Roman Rawalpindi, covered fifty acres. You may find the modern street plan unusually logical; blame it on Gn. Julius Agricola, Legatus Pro Consule in Britain, A.D. 78-83. The Romans brought their own wine and olive oil with them, and thus fared as well as any man can as the mists roll down from the hills, and Celtic voices ululate from the nearest chapel. They also had camp-followers, and Isca had a civil suburb of a hundred acres, which is now being carefully excavated. Most notable object is the finest Roman amphitheatre in Britain: a stone oval 267ft by 222ft and holding 6,000 people. But the best scene of Roman civil settlement is at Caerwent (Venta Silurum), ten miles away to the east: 10ft-high walls, and foundations which trace baths, temples, gates, and the forum. All the Roman bits and pieces found on these sites are in the museum at Newport, which constitutes about the only reason for visiting this sad port town on the Usk. Newport has another of those civic centres.

West of Cardiff into Glamorgan there is magnificent scenery and foul industrial development. Each of the mining valleys is like a lump of grit set in a Renaissance ring. The life of industrial South Wales is now as much part of legend as King Arthur and Merlin, but there is a new industrial South Wales on the way, and members of the conference will be able to see it for themselves at the Margram Works of the Steel Company of Wales, the largest steel-rolling-mill in Europe, employing 10,000 people and producing more than 30,000 tons of steel-plate and strip every week. This is a new version of a traditional South Wales industry; at the factory of the British Nylon Spinners Ltd. (actually near Pontypool, in Monmouthshire) you can see an example of the new, clean, welfare-style enterprises that are springing up amid the older heavy industries. At Swansea the Llandarcy refinery of the British Petroleum Company stands as symbol of the challenge to Welsh coal; it refines about four million tons of oil every year.

Nearer the conference centre at Cardiff lies the lovely vale of Glamorgan, between the sea and the mountains, with the English-speaking enclave of the Gower Peninsular (a Berlin crisis for future Welsh and English Governments), and pleasant towns and fishing villages. Thatch here instead of slate. Cowbridge has charm and grace, but Llantwit Major on the coast is the main attraction. The best-known route is by main roads from Cowbridge, but if you have a good map and your own car, take the back-lanes and visit Old Beaupré, a ruined Elizabethan house, on the way. Llantwit Major (note the Welsh Llanilltyd Fawr; means the same thing) is a fishing village of the best picturesque specifications—whitewashed fishermen's cottages, a smell of kelp, a ragged coast, and distant views of England across the moving waters of the Bristol Channel. There is a statue of a fisherman, on which I would prefer to make no comment, an odd medieval church divided in two parts, a medieval town hall. Farther on towards Bridgend is Ewenny, whose Benedictine priory is magnificent, complete with wall and towers (it was fortified) and a Norman church with a gloomy and tremendous interior.

Probably the pleasantest memories of this conference will be of the garden party at St. Fagan's Castle (rhymes with waggons), four miles out of Cardiff. On a fine day, with bees droning about, and the grass and pollarded trees glittering under a gentle sun, St. Fagan's can be arcadian. Its gables and chimneys have that soft British charm which can speak to the senses against all the clamour of Chambord and Villandry. The Welsh, of course, like the Celts, are highly folksy, and St. Fagan's houses the Welsh National Folk Museum, with reconstructed rooms and even old buildings in the grounds, such as a hill-farm and a Unitarian chapel. I could have done without these furnishings, which remind me somewhat of Evelyn Waugh's necropolis in "The Loved One." You tell me about them; I'll just sit awhile under this tree until tea-time.

Left, Cardiff Castle: a toy castle on a mound. Right, St. Fagan's Castle: arcadian on a fine day; setting for the conference garden party

THE ARCHITECT and Building News,
10 June 1959

SOUTH WALES INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS' RECENT WORK IN THE AREA

In this issue a review is made of recent work in South Wales by local architects and also those outside the area. The architecture is divided into categories, photographs being cross referenced with a short written description

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1. Catholic church at Overton *2. Crematorium at Colwyn Bay*
3. All Saints' Church, Cyn-coed *4. St. David's Cathedral, Cardiff*

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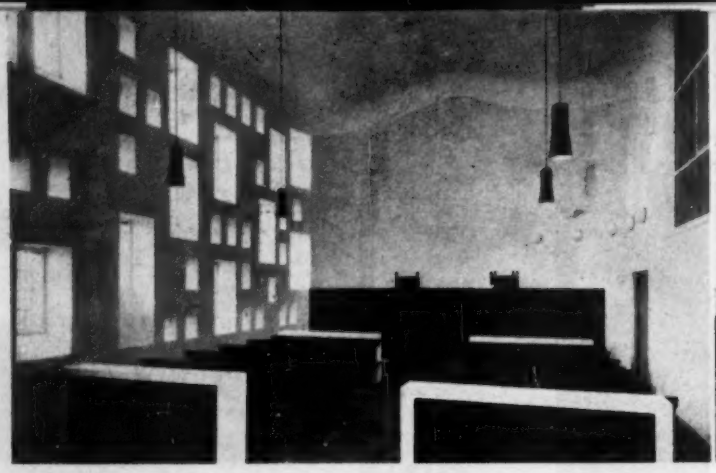
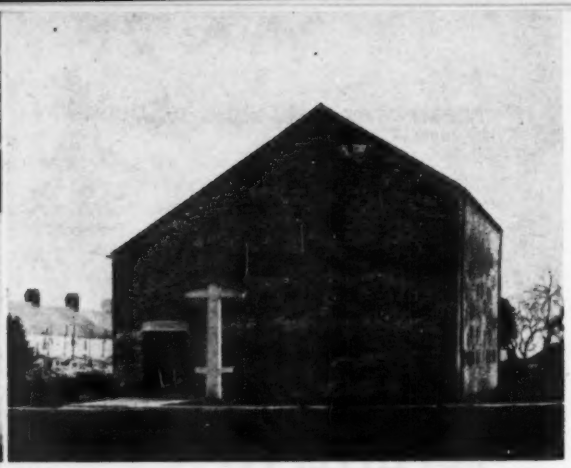
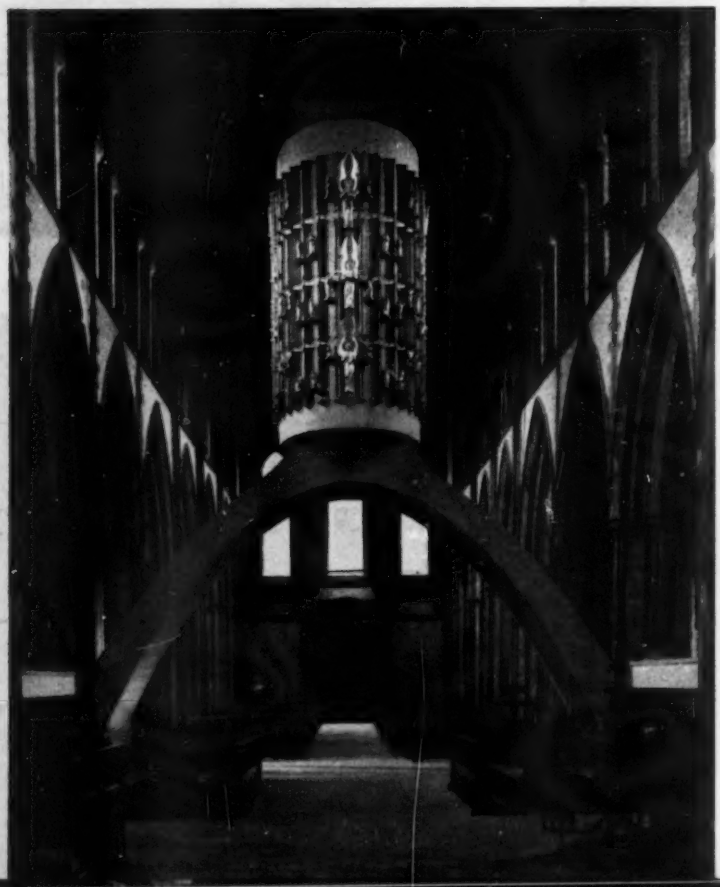




▲5

◀6

5. The new chapel for St. Michael's College, Llandaff. 6. Proposed church at Cardiff. 7. Restoration at Llandaff Cathedral



◀7

CHURCHES

The Catholic church hall, Overton (1), was designed to serve a two-fold purpose, church and church-hall. The total cost was £5,928. Architects: Weightman & Bullen. Contractors: Lanner Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

A new crematorium at Colwyn Bay (2) has been designed by architect: L. Moseley. Contractors: Ashworth Bros. Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

All Saints' Church, Cyn-coed (3), was previously a typical "mission hall" type structure. To increase seating accommodation a flat roofed aisle was added and the extension of the nave gave the opportunity to give a "face-lift" to the church. Architects: Smith, Wilson & Cox. Contractors: E. Turner & Sons Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

St. David's Cathedral (4) was destroyed by incendiary bombs in 1941. In rebuilding, the major problem lay in the integration of the new works with those portions which remained. Architects: F. R. Bates & Son. Contractors: E. Turner & Sons Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

The new chapel for St. Michael's College, Llandaff (5), creates a focal point in the college quadrangle. Total cost approximately £15,500. Architect: George G. Pace. Contractors: Hinkins & Frewin Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

A model of the proposed church at Cowbridge Road, Cardiff (6). Architects: F. R. Bates & Son. Contractors: C. Winstone (Builders) Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

Llandaff Cathedral has been restored and repaired after war damage. The photograph (7) shows

PRIVATE HOUSES

the pulpitum in the nave which encloses the echo organ. Architect: George G. Pace. Contractors: Hinkins & Frewin Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

The Catholic church at Llanrwst (8) is constructed in R.C. frame with textured white plastered walls and blue coloured insulation board ceilings. Architects: S. Powell Bowen and G. Parry Davies. Contractors: Frank Tyldesley Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

The house at Penllyne (9) was planned by architect Keith J. Evans for economy and simplicity in "running" the house without domestic help. Contractor: Louis C. Fisher.

◆ ◆ ◆

Three houses by architect J. H. Evans are illustrated. A detached four-bedroom house at Raglan (10) is sited in a rural area. Finishes have been chosen to blend with the surrounding landscape. Contractors: Jones & Wiseman.

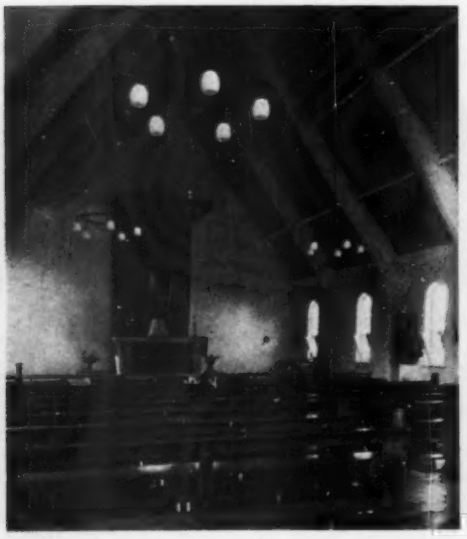
◆ ◆ ◆

A detached house in Newport (11), sits on a difficult sloping site. Rear windows look on to woodland and large picture windows are therefore incorporated to take benefit from this view. Contractors: I. H. Lane & Son.

◆ ◆ ◆

A four-bedroom detached house on the Tre Cefn estate, Monmouth (12). Contractor: S. Palmer.

Church at Llanrwst 8▼



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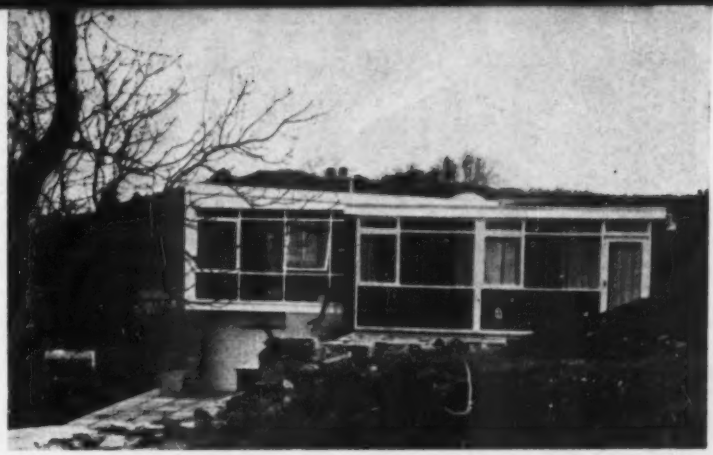

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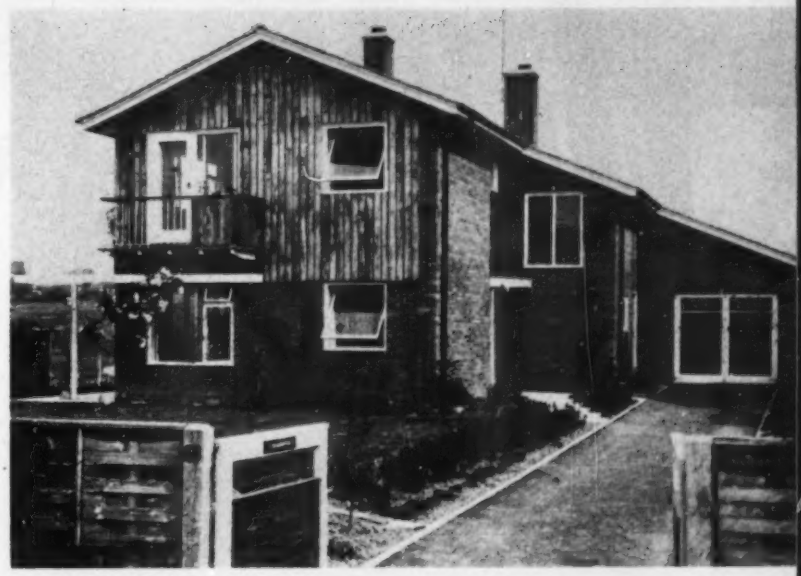


9. House at Penllyne. 10. House at Raglan

11. Detached house at Newport.
12. House on the Tre Cefn estate, Monmouth

11▶

12▶

HOUSING

Three 11-storey tower blocks at Gabalfa, in Cardiff (13) contains 126 flats. The site is on the edge of a housing estate, near the River Taff, with a view over Llandaff Cathedral.

Work commenced in November, 1957; the first block was completed in November, 1958; the whole scheme will be completed by July, 1959. Cost: £322,564. Contractors: George Wimpey & Co. Ltd. City Architect: John Dryburgh.

◆ ◆ ◆

Newport, the only County Borough in Monmouthshire (population over 105,000), has extensive docks and varied industrial undertakings. Since the last war, over 5,000 houses and flats have been erected; many more are under construction or planned.

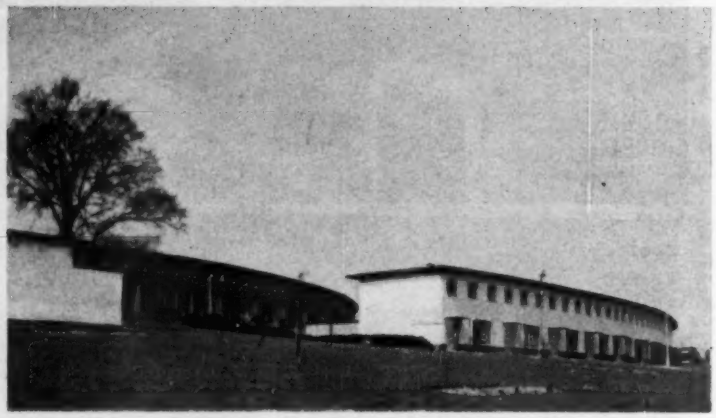
Situated as Newport is, divided by the River Usk, the majority of flat land has been scheduled for industrial development, and further residential development is not considered desirable owing to the wet conditions prevailing and the possibility of flooding. In view of this, it has been necessary to develop the hilly land to the north, which is within the borough boundary, and it will soon be necessary to develop land outside the borough for general housing purposes.

The post-war houses have, apart from a few small housing estates, been incorporated in four new neighbourhood units, two of which are briefly described below.

◆ ◆ ◆

The Gaer neighbourhood (14, 16) is planned with houses on one side of roads only. Interesting features are the terraces arranged along the contours, with flat-roof houses so that they have a panoramic view south

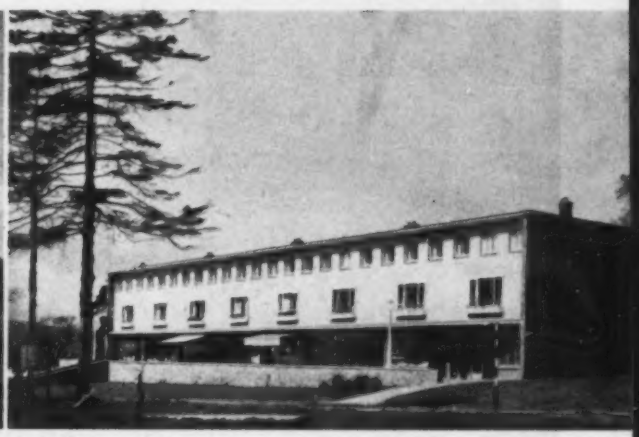
◀ 13



◀ 14

13. A detail of 11-storey tower blocks at Gabalfa, Cardiff. 14. Part of the Gaer neighbourhood. 15. The Pentre, Maelor village, Wrexham

15 ▼



▲ *16, 17*

16. The Gaer neighbourhood, Newport. 17. Shops and maisonnettes in the Malpas estate. 18. Council housing for the Monmouth Borough Council. 19. Housing at Brynmawr

over the Bristol Channel. There are natural span spaces, and along the western boundary is a very large one, scheduled as a park. The estate won a M.H. & L.G. housing award in 1950. Contractors: Amalgamated Building Contracts Ltd., S. Percy Trenthen, Gee, Walker & Slater Ltd., G. E. Wallis & Son Ltd., Preece, Williams & Murthy Ltd., Williams & Wilkes Ltd., Apprentice Training Scheme, Apprentice Master Thomas J. Hill, J. Thomas & Son.

◆ ◆ ◆

This block of eight shops and maisonnettes (17) serves the southern section of the new Malpas estate. Contractors: Hinkins & Frewin Ltd. Borough architect: Johnson Blackett.

◆ ◆ ◆

The Pentre, Maelor village, Wrexham (15), built for the Treforest Trading Estate, is an illustration of houses grouped around a clover-leaf village green. Architect: S. Colwyn Foulkes. Contractors: Edward W. Gittins & Sons.

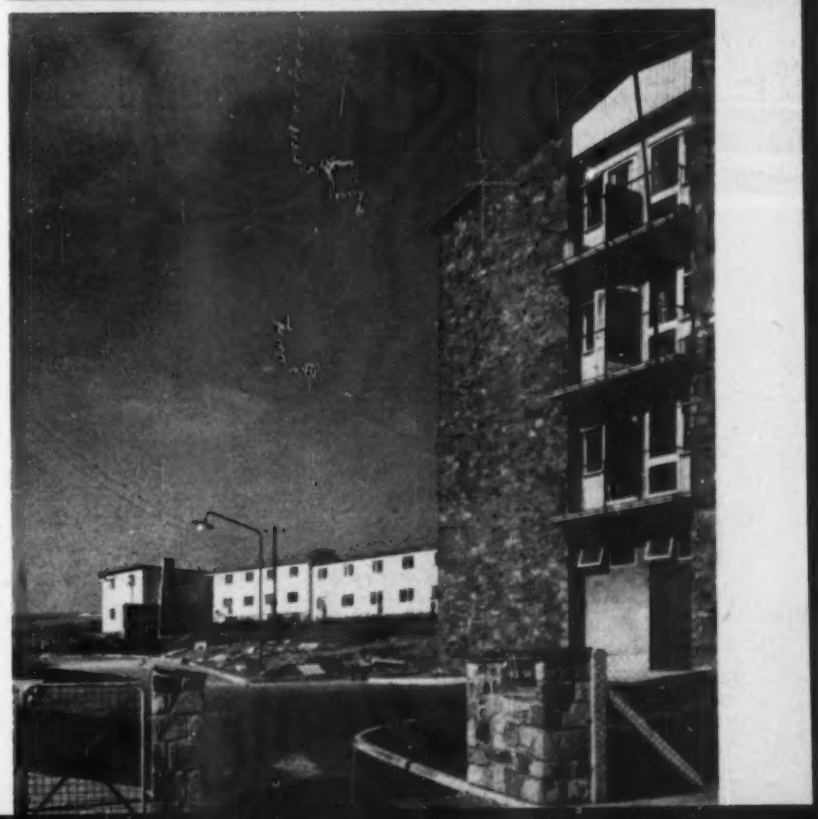
◆ ◆ ◆

Council housing for the Monmouth Borough Council at Tudor House estate, Monmouth, is illustrated right (18). These houses and bungalows are being developed for 62 local authorities. Architect: J. H. Evans. Contractors: J. Henry Williams & Sons (Ellwood) Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

Twenty houses, 15 flats and a small community centre on the ground floor of the block of flats are provided in this housing scheme at Brynmawr (19). Architects: Yorke, Rosenberg & Mardall. The Brynmawr and District Housing Society was formed for the housing of key workers employed by the Brynmawr Rubber Co. The society manages the housing and the communal garden. External walls are rendered alternatively in grey, white or pink; walls of terraces are built in second-hand local stone. Contractors: W. & A. Davies Ltd.

18 ▶



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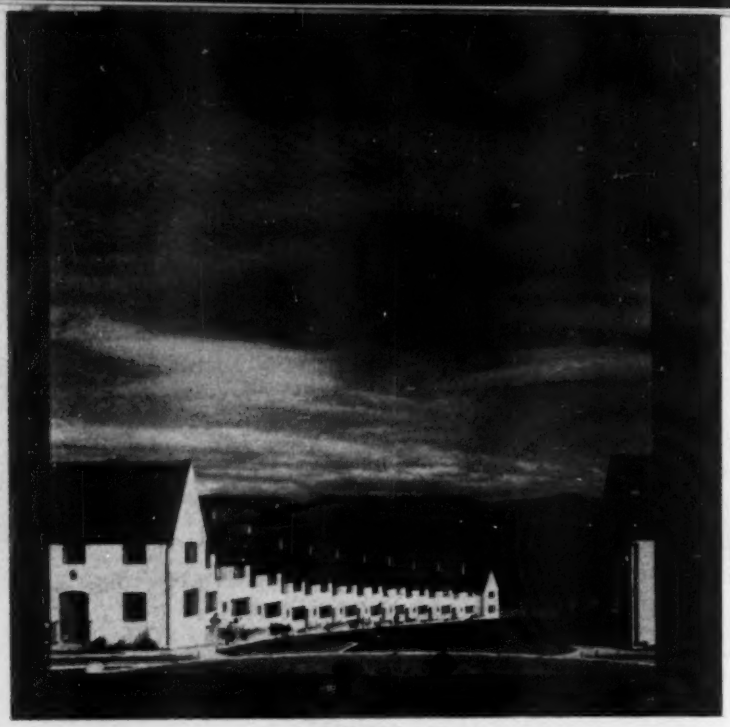

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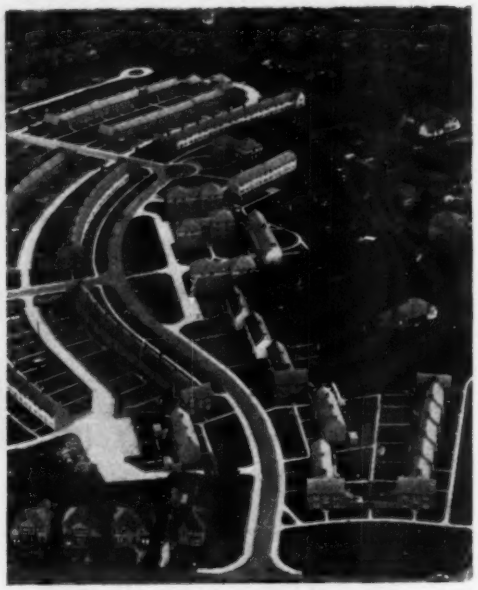


▲21

20. Housing at Beaumaris. 21. The Elwy estate at Colwyn Bay. 22. Housing for the Borough of Denbigh. 23. Speculative housing development at Newport

◀22

HOUSING

Two housing schemes designed by architect S. Colwyn Foulkes are illustrated. Housing at Beaumaris (20), for the local borough council, uses the principle of planning in continuous terraces without a back access road. They were the first houses to be built with a 7ft 6in instead of 8ft floor to ceiling height. On the Elwy estate (21), for the Borough of Colwyn Bay, planning is still in continuous terraces, but there is a back road because the houses have a parlour, as well as a living room, and therefore need back access. The area of each house is only 900 sq ft. Contractors: John Hughes (Contractors) Ltd. (Beaumaris), Edward Jones (Contractors) Ltd. (Elwy).

◆ ◆ ◆

◀23

Housing for the Borough of Denbigh is illustrated on the left (22). The scheme comprises 24 houses with floor areas of between 730 and 880 sq ft. Construction is of load-bearing slate brick walls with slate cills and canopies and roof covering of Ffestiniog slate. Architect: G. Parry Davies, of G. Parry Davies and S. Powell Bowen. Contractors: Percy Jones (Rhyl) Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

The detached houses (23) at Newport, built by Taverner (Contractors) Ltd., for sale as a speculative development, have proved to be extremely popular. The site is on an estate developed by the Newport Corporation on which plots were leased to private individuals and to builders. Architect: J. H. Evans.

SHOPS AND STORES

The Lloyds Bank at Swansea (24) is built on the site of an old cinema and is part single-, part two-storey. The ground floor of the taller block forms a banking hall, whilst upstairs are office, staff and store rooms. The lower block comprises manager's office, strong-room, boiler and oil-storage rooms. Dark grey bricks were used, combined with curtain walling which has glass and Narbrissina marble panels. Architects: T. Alwyn Lloyd & Gordan. Contractors: Henry Billings & Sons Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

An interior view (25) right, shows the New Continental Restaurant, Cardiff, designed by architect Berwyn Thomas. A mosaic mural wall in the bar was designed by R. Maddelena, of Cardiff, and composed in Italy. Contractor: D. Grandon.

◆ ◆ ◆

A small grocer's shop is incorporated with the house at Llanwnda (26) and replaces a business in a derelict building on an adjoining site. The roof is in Dinorwic green slate; the facing brick panel in buff stock bricks. Architects: B. Hallwood Lingard & Associates. Contractors: W. E. & T. A. Thomas Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

The Wales Gas Board Swansea showroom (27), by architects T. Alwyn Lloyd & Gordan, was restricted to a height of three storeys. A mezzanine gallery was therefore planned to increase floor space in the showroom. Above the showroom is a two-storey demonstration theatre entered at mezzanine and first-floor levels, seating 100 people. Contractors: E. Turner & Sons Ltd.

24. Lloyds Bank at Swansea. 25. The New Continental Restaurant, Cardiff. 26. A house and grocer's shop at Llanwnda. 27. The Wales Gas Board showroom at Swansea

24▶

25▶

27▼

▼26

28

28. Coffee bar, Rhyl. 29. Music shop, Cardiff. 30. Motor showrooms for Cardiff Motors Ltd.

29

30

SHOPS AND STORES

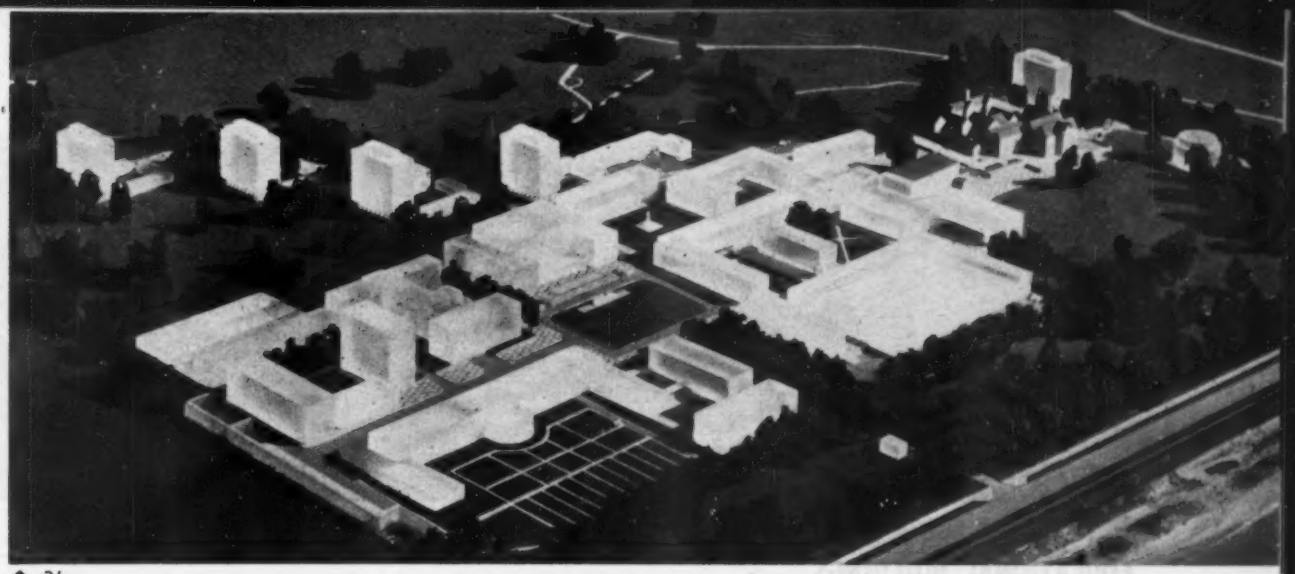
The coffee bar, Rhyl (28), was originally a Victorian boarding house in a terrace of similar dwellings. The building was almost entirely gutted by the alterations, and reconstruction was carried out by using a reinforced concrete frame and floors supported by prestressed beams. Externally, Sapele vertical boarding has been used as the facing, except for the yellow Formica panel over the entrance, bearing coffee-pot motifs. The large windows at first and second floors are "Allday" sliding windows. A wall of Permon stone in the entrance area is used to provide solidity and texture, contrasting with the plate-glass and armour-glass doors. The contract was completed in six months at an approximate cost of £7,000. Architects: B. Hallwood Lingard & Williams. Contractors: T. Anwyl & Son.

◆ ◆ ◆

The music shop, Cardiff (29), architect, J. Morgan Harries, has been altered to provide a large music store, classic record section, piano showrooms, television lounges and storage for radios and other electrical equipment. The front is open for display on ground and first floors. The fascia and sides are finished with green verte marble and the free-standing feature panel with blue Belge marble. The ground-floor finish is marble strip, but other floors have fitted carpets. The new staircase was entirely prefabricated. The shop remained opened throughout the alterations. Contractors and shop-fitters: J. H. Hunt & Sons Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

The motor showrooms (photo, bottom left (30)) were commissioned by Cardiff Motors Ltd., and designed for high-class vehicle sales. The front part of the showroom, 875 sq ft and 19ft high, is designed as an eye catching "display case" in a street, rapidly becoming a car sales centre, although at the time of construction mostly converted shops. The rear is used as vehicle storage; the administrative offices are suspended over part of this area. The building is steel-framed with concrete roofs and floors. Powerfully coloured suspended ceilings and plastered wall areas contrast with the interior buff colour facing bricks. Cedar boarded fascias are used externally, in an attempt to preserve the eaves and ridge lines of the domestic-scale adjoining properties. Cost: £13,800. Architects: Smith, Wilson & Cox. Contractors: E. Turner & Sons Ltd.



▲ 31

EDUCATIONAL BUILDINGS

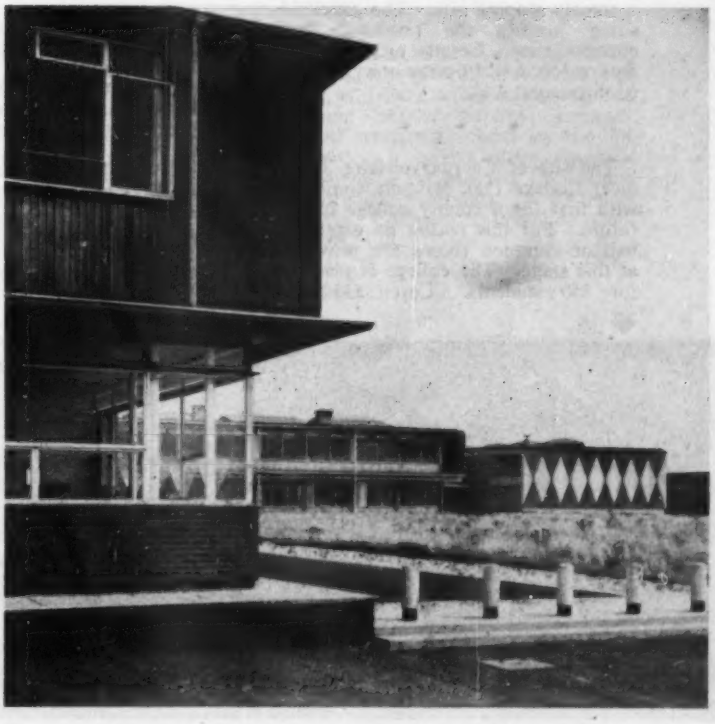
The model illustrated above shows the proposed development for the University College of Swansea. Existing buildings are in the top right-hand corner, and the only completed building of the new development is the natural sciences building in the bottom left-hand corner. The chemistry building and college house in the centre are in course of construction, and it is proposed to start work on the first multi-storey hall of residence (left background) in December, 1959. Architects: Sir Percy Thomas & Son. Contractors: Chemistry Building: Stone & Co. (Bristol) Ltd. College House: The Demolition & Construction Co. Ltd.

✦ ✦ ✦

Kenfig Hill Secondary School (32) is to accommodate 1,440 pupils in three schools. The three school blocks and administration block are planned round a central court, open to the south. Architect: Denis Clarke Hall. Contractors: Gee, Walker & Slater Ltd.

✦ ✦ ✦

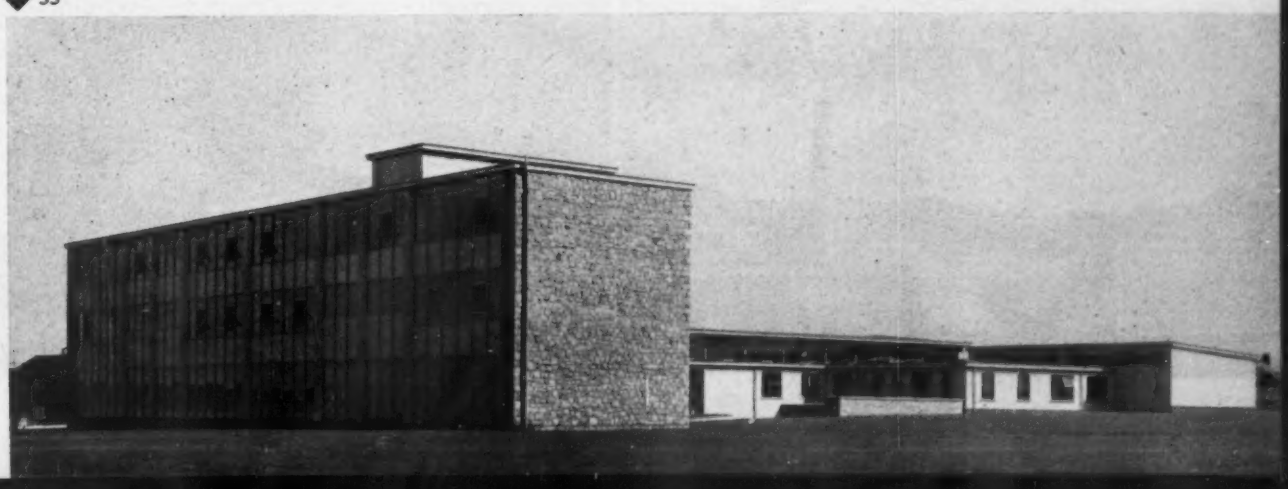
The new primary school at Llanfawr, Holyhead (33), stands on high ground overlooking the Irish Sea with magnificant views of the harbour and of ships entering and leaving. Architect: N. Squire Johnson. Contractors: Pochins (Contractors) Ltd.

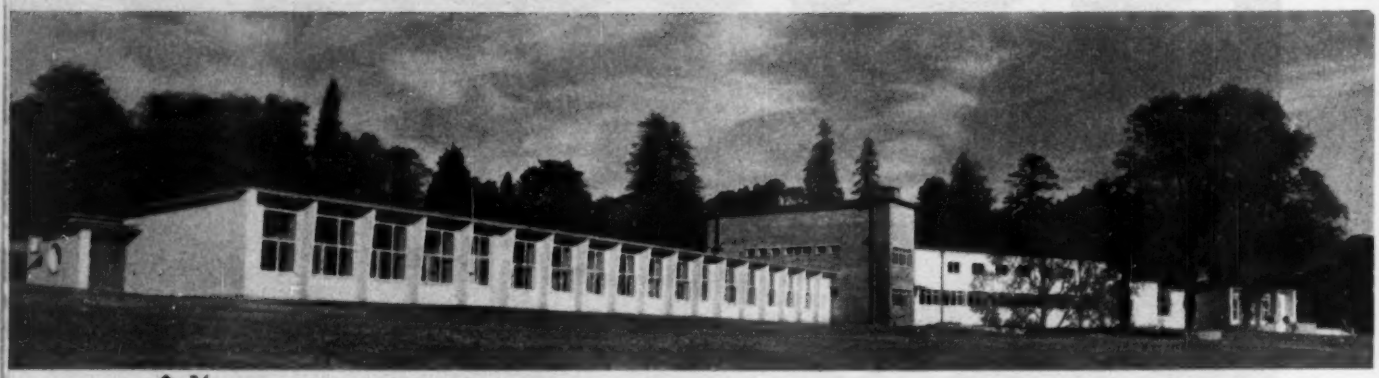


32 ▶

31. Proposed development for the University College of Swansea.
32. Kenfig Hill Secondary school. 33. Primary school, Llanfawr

▼ 33





▲ 34

34. Beaumaris County Primary School, Anglesey

EDUCATIONAL BUILDINGS

Beaumaris County Primary School (34), Anglesey, accommodates 246 pupils, is planned on the contours of a steeply sloping site. The excellent siting justifies the resulting long corridor runs. County architect: N. Squire Johnson. Contractors: Pochins (Contractors) Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

The site of Caernarvonshire Technical College (35), Bangor, combines with that for a county college in the future. For this reason no assembly hall or common rooms are provided at this stage. The college is planned for 350 students. Cost: £112,350. County architect: H. Williams. Contractors: Williams & Williams Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

Waterhall County Secondary School (36), at Fairwater, Cardiff, is a mixed four-form entry school for 600 pupils. Planning is compact, with double-period practical rooms placed at the centre of the four-storey teaching block. Floor area: 47,194 sq ft. Cost: £198,000. Architects: Smith, Wilson & Cox. Contractors: E. Turner & Sons Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

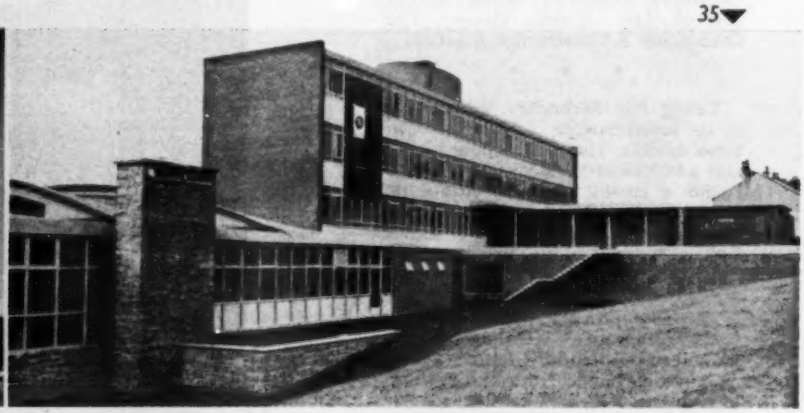
Peter Lea Primary School (37), at Fairwater, Cardiff, is constructed on the "Thermogard" system. Accommodation includes six infant and eight junior classrooms, two assembly halls, dining space and kitchen. Cost: £91,500. Architects: T. Alwyn Lloyd & Gordon. Contractors: Wm. T. Nicholls Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

This junior and infant school (38), Queens Park, is the second one that has been built in the new housing area of the Borough of Wrexham. Accommodation consists of six infant and eight junior classrooms, two assembly halls, and central kitchen. County architect: R. A. Macfarlane.

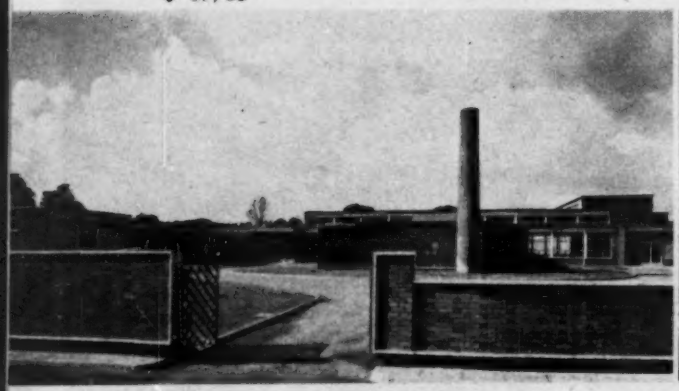
▼ 36

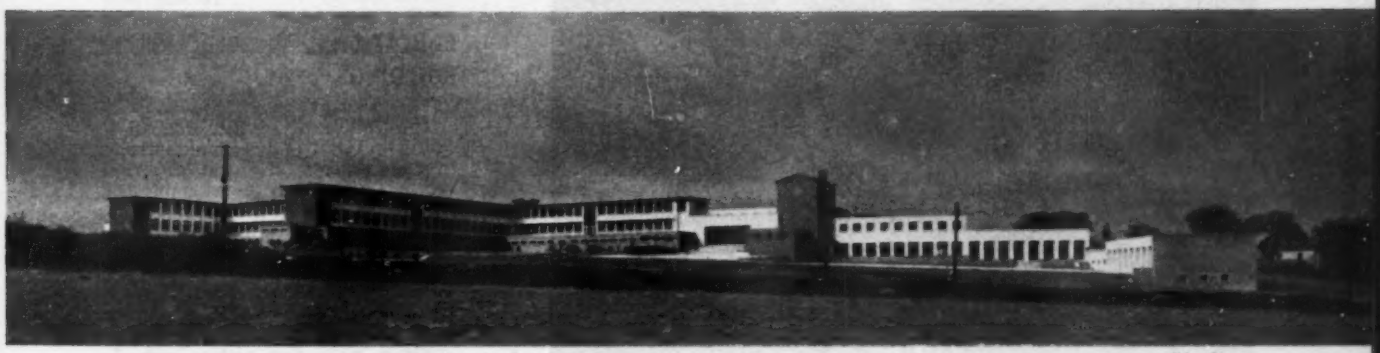
35 ▼



35. Caernarvonshire Technical College, Bangor. 36. Waterhall County Secondary School, Cardiff. 37. Peter Lea Primary School, Cardiff. 38. Junior and infant school, Queens Park

▼ 37, 38





39 ▲

39. Sir Thomas Jones County Secondary School, Amlwch, Anglesey

Contractors: Edward W. Gittins & Sons.

◆ ◆ ◆

The Sir Thomas Jones County Secondary School (39), at Amlwch, Anglesey, designed under regulations in force in 1948, and was built in three stages ending 1953. County architect: N. Squire Johnson. Contractors: Pochins (Contractors) Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

Howardian High School (40) Cardiff, is a grammar school for 500 boys. A feature is made of the sloping site by arranging the playgrounds as elevated terraces. Architects: Sir Percy Thomas & Son. Contractors: E. Taylor & Co. Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

The new dormitory block at Clyne Castle for the University College of Swansea (41). Architects: Sir Percy Thomas & Son. Contractors: Griffith Davies & Co. Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

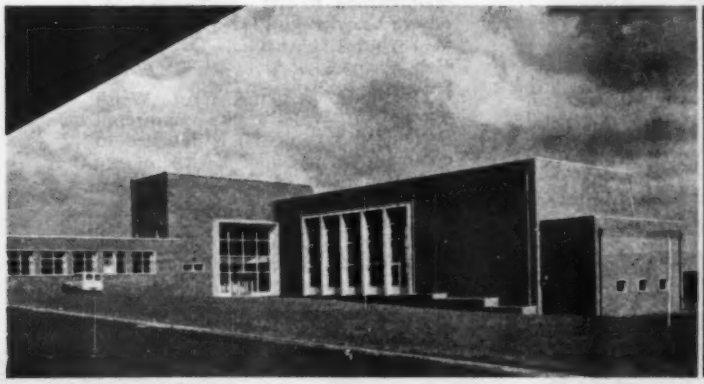
The University Sports Pavilion (42), Llanrumney, awarded the R.I.B.A. bronze medal, 1957, for the South Wales Region, serves a 32-acre college sports ground, and provides changing facilities for 300 players simultaneously. Architects: T. Alwyn Lloyd & Gordon. Contractors: Hinkins & Frewin Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

The extension to Rydal School (43), Colwyn Bay, is built in stone to conform with the existing buildings. The building serves several purposes. Chapel services are held for the 400 students. It has a stage equipped with lighting for use as a theatre and an organ. Architect: S. Colwyn Foulkes. Contractors: Pochins (Contractors) Ltd.

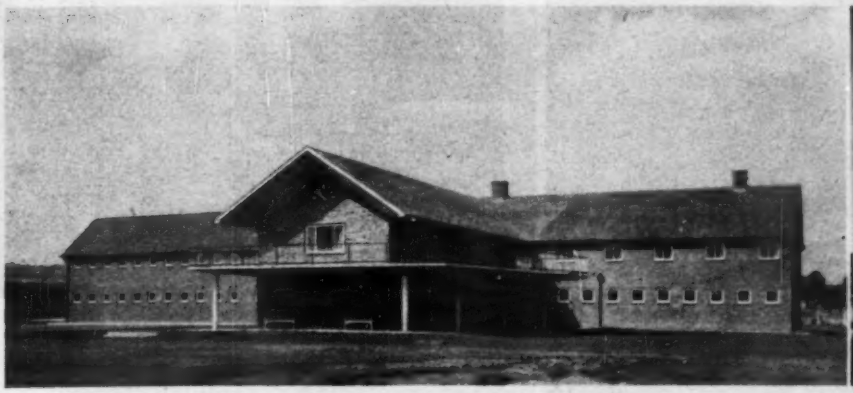
▼ 40

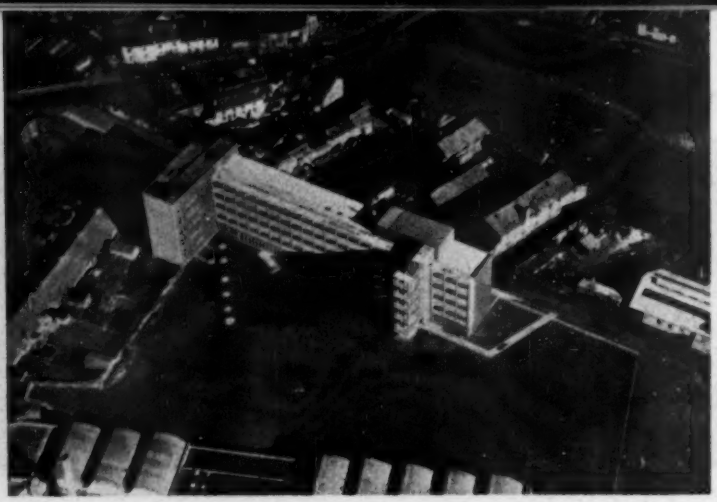
41 ▼



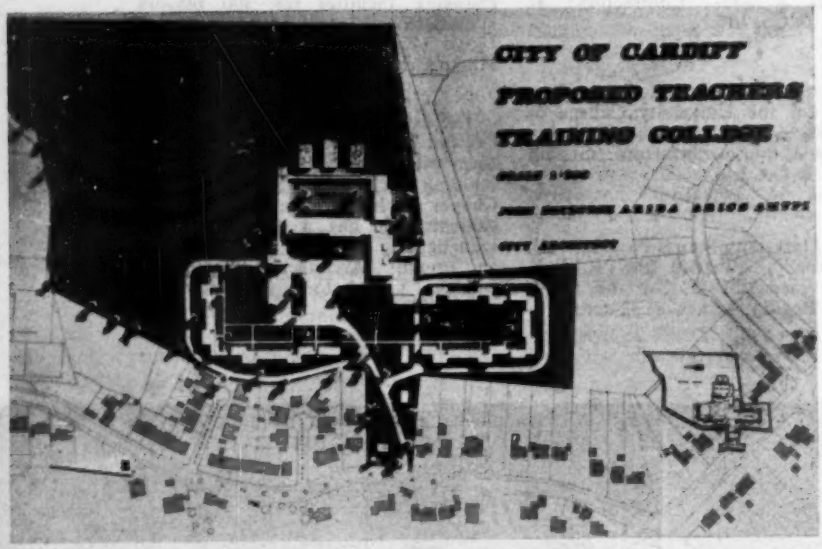
40. Howardian High School, Cardiff. 41. Dormitory block for the University College of Swansea, Clyne Castle. 42. University Sports Pavilion, Llanrumney. 43. Extension to Rydal School, Colwyn Bay

42, 43 ▼

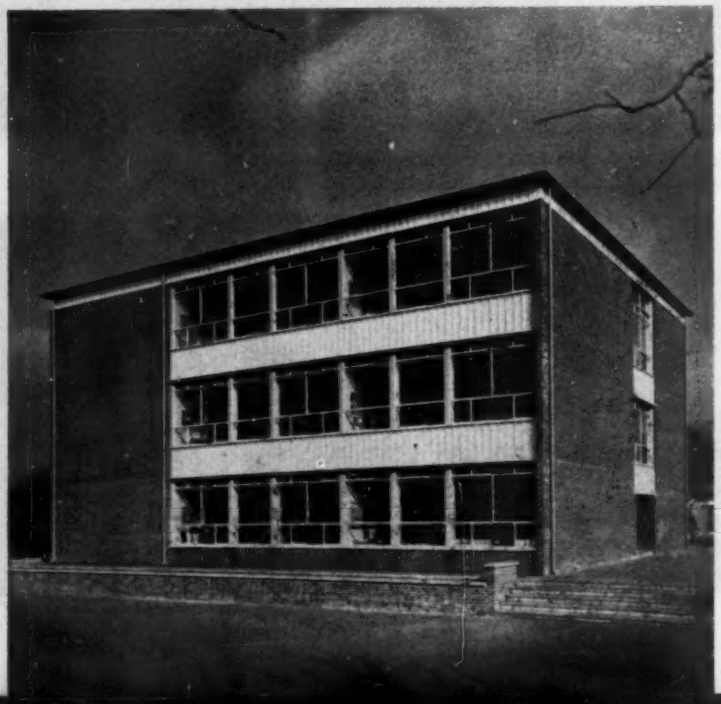




44. *College of Further Education, Merthyr Tydfil. 45. Proposed Teachers' Training College, Cardiff*



46. *Junior and infants' school, Llanrumney. 47. Secondary school, Brynrefail*



EDUCATIONAL BUILDINGS

The College of Further Education, Merthyr Tydfil (44), is built on part of a site which is scheduled for a civic centre. As a result the assembly hall is intended to serve the community as well as the students, and will be used as a theatre, concert hall, etc. An interesting feature is the vertical grouping of the gymnasium, assembly hall and refectory above. This arrangement not only saves space; students have fine views from the refectory, and for informal occasions it can be opened up as one space with students' rooms and covered roof garden. Architects: York, Rosenberg & Mardall. Contractors: Gee, Walker & Slater Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

The New Teachers' Training College, at Cyn-coed (45), will provide accommodation for 400 male and female students, of whom 300 will reside in hostels attached to the college. Architect: John Dryburgh, Cardiff City architect.

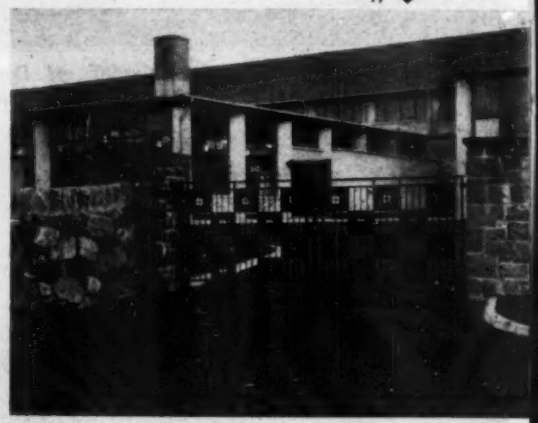
◆ ◆ ◆

A three-form junior and infants' school for 840 pupils has been built as one integral unit in the primary school at Llanrumney (46). The school is planned with a minimum circulation space and area per place (32·5 sq ft) so as to allow for a high standard of finishes, thereby reducing maintenance costs. Architects: T. Alwyn Lloyd & Gordon. Contractors: E. Taylor & Co. Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

Described as "the most Welsh school in Wales", the Brynrefail Secondary School (47) is designed to command a magnificent view of the mountain heart of the principality—Snowdon and Elidir Fawr. Cost: £147,500; cost per place, £243. Architects: Richards & Trollope. Contractors: Pochins (Contractors) Ltd.

47 ▼



MISCELLANEOUS

The new offices at Carmarthen (48) were begun before the war, temporarily covered with a flat roof and used for war purposes. It was not until about 1954 that the county council were able to complete the building. They are built on the site of the old jail, standing high above the river. Architects: Sir Percy Thomas & Son. General contractors: Wm. T. Nicholls & Co. Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

Architects Henry A. Ellis & Son designed the Merchant Navy Hotel, Swansea (49), for the Merchant Navy Welfare Board. Every facility has been provided for the residents, including a television room, games room, restaurant and lounge. It is simply designed to cut costs and time of erection; a steel frame is clad extensively with curtain walling containing Vitrolite infilling panels. Brickwork, where exposed, is faced with Quarzite to counter atmospheric conditions. Contractors: Benson Bros. (Bristol) Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

The Wales Empire Pool, Cardiff (50) was designed to cater for local swimming needs as well as to accommodate the British Commonwealth and Empire Games in 1958. City Architect: John Dryburgh. Contractors: Davies, Middleton & Davies Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

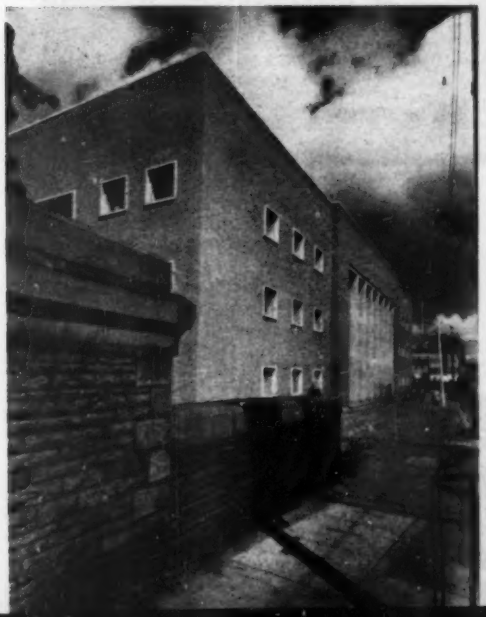
The first puppet theatre in Great Britain (51) has been erected on the Cayley Promenade, Rhos-on-Sea, Colwyn Bay. Designed by architect G. Parry Davies, it is intended to create within the foyer and externally a twentieth-century design to contrast vividly with the "make-believe" world of puppetry expressed in the theatrical Renaissance interior of the auditorium. Contract sum: £5,500 (excluding seating). Contractors: T. Alun Hughes Ltd.

48 ▶

49 ▶

48. Offices at Carmarthen. 49. Merchant Navy Hotel, Swansea. 50. Wales Empire Pool, Cardiff. 51. Puppet theatre at Rhos-on-Sea, Colwyn Bay

▼ 50



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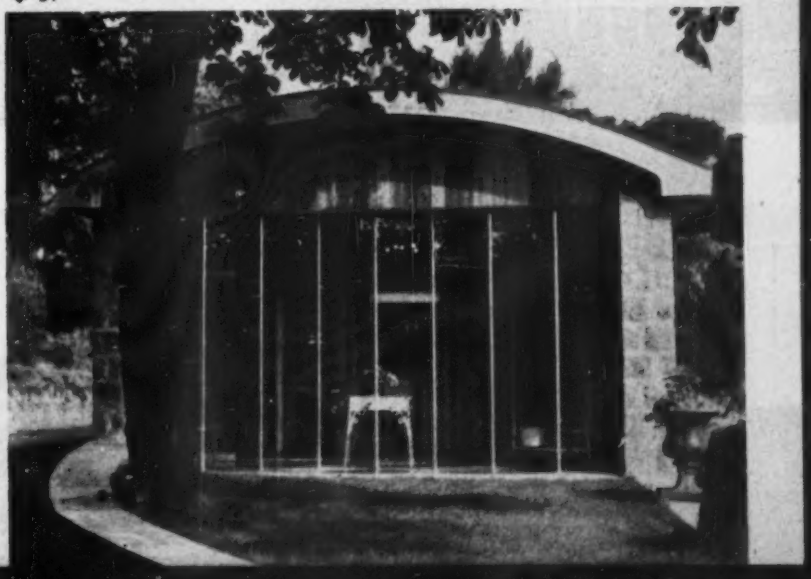
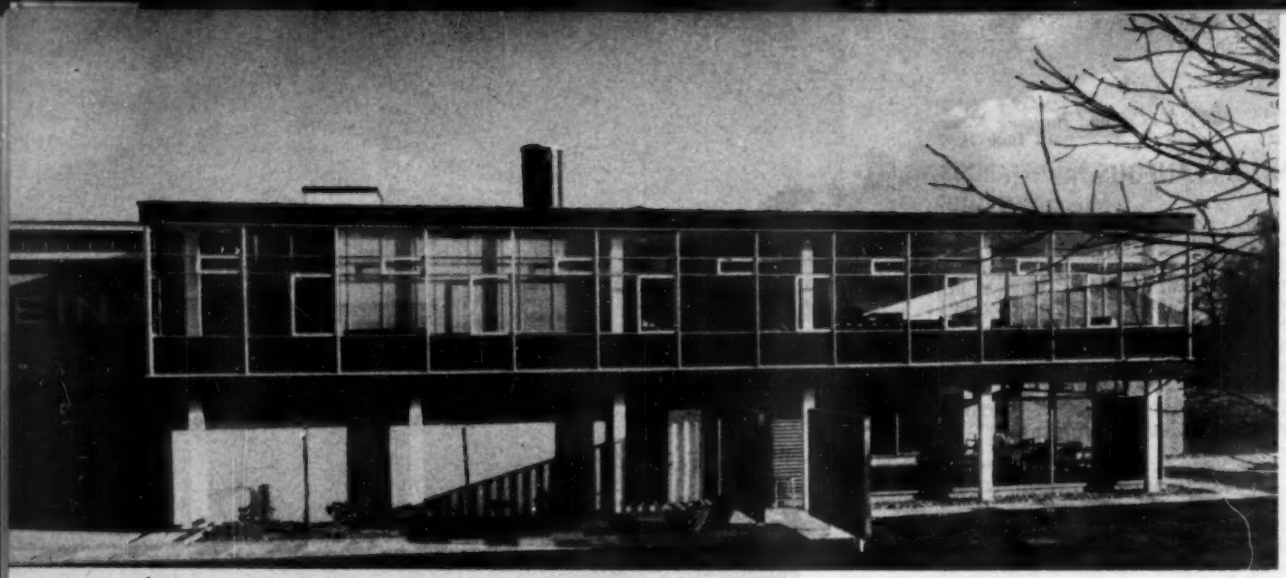
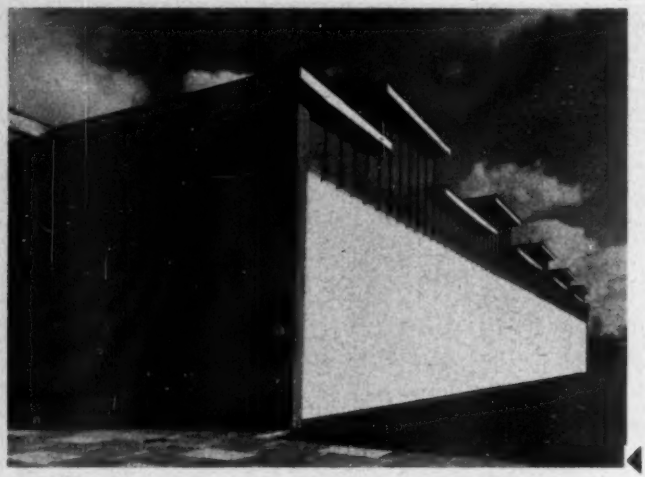




52, 53. Two general views of the distribution depot for H. J. Heinz, Cardiff

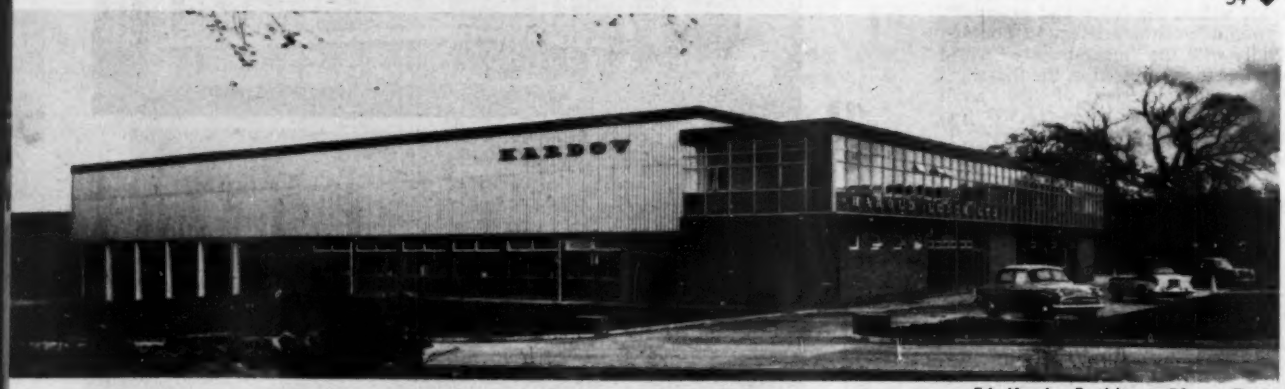
52 ▲



◀ 53

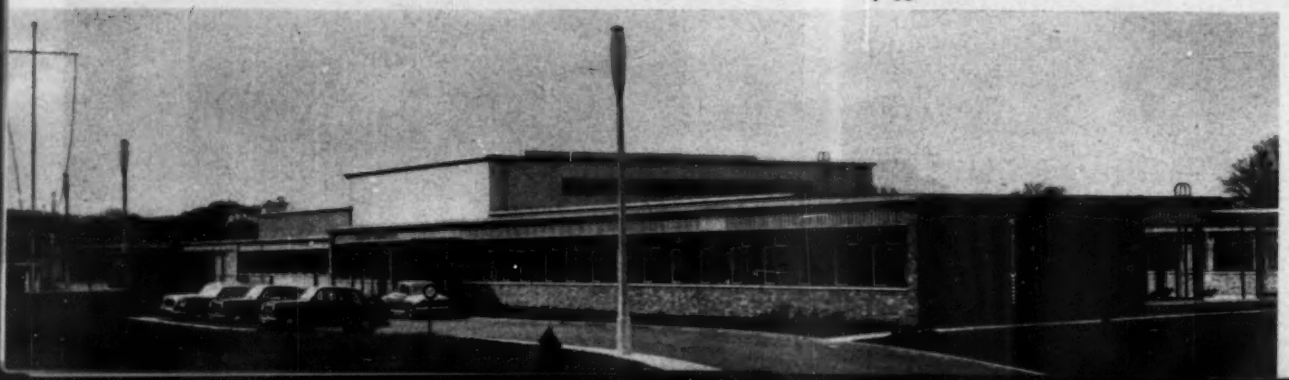
This H. J. Heinz distribution depot, Cardiff (52, 53) is the first of a series that the company are building in different parts of the United Kingdom to deal with increased production, e.g., their Harlesden and Kitt Green factories. The architects, Grenfell Baines & Hargreaves, worked in collaboration with the company's transport and warehousing and civil engineering section. The depot's simple accommodation consists of a small administration office and storage, capable of a 100 per cent expansion. Goods arrive on pallets and are handled by fork-lift trucks, so warehouse floors and approaches were kept at the same level. The warehouse roof construction is a lightweight tubular-steel frame designed by the late Felix J. Samuely. The office block is of frame construction and the ground floor

54 ▼



54. Kardov Buildings, Fforest Fach.
55. Pilkington Factory, St. Asaph

▼ 55



has been freely planned within the frame. Contractors: Knox & Wells Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

The Kardov Buildings, Fforest Fach (54), is another warehouse. Architects Smith, Wilson & Cox were required to provide a main warehouse floor area of 18,000ft super to act as a centre for the distribution of flour, preserves and other foodstuffs. Subsidiary accommodation included an office block for area administration and canteen facilities. As the clients' previous premises were destroyed by fire, speed of erection was of vital importance. Total cost: £74,000. Contractors: E. Turner & Sons Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

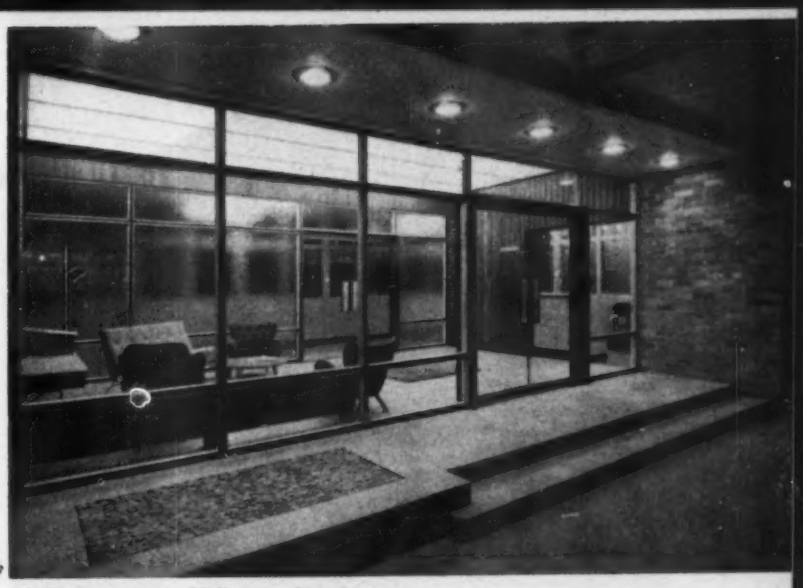
Programme requirements for the Pilkington Factory at St. Asaph (55, 56) were based on methods of manufacture, new in England, developed in the United States and licensed to the factory owners. The process involves high precision mixing, melting, fining, working and annealing glass for ophthalmic purposes, for the instrument industry, and for shielding against nuclear radiation. A job requirement was a definite date for the commencement of glass production. Building construction commenced on October 10, 1956, and the first glass was produced on June 30, 1957. Owners comment at the building official opening: "The speed of the work leading up to the commencement of production was a terrific achievement by all concerned. The building itself was of special construction; most of the plant and instrumentation of special design, not available from stock". Architects: Ormrod & Partners. Contractors: Holland and Hannen & Cubitts Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

Blackwood Hodge, in Cardiff (57), has been designed as a regional office and depot for distribution and storage of mechanical parts and spares for heavy earth moving equipment. The two-storey offices on the front part are planned with access to the first floor from outside the building as well as internally. Storage areas are to the rear. Total cost: £36,149 3s 9d. Architect: Ronald Fielding. Contractors: George Wimpey & Co. Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

The Rogerstone Power Station (58) for the Central Electricity Generating Board which opened in October, 1958. The lightweight aluminium cladding is made up of panels each having an inner galvanized sheet steel surface, insulated filling and a fluted aluminium external surface. The fluted reinforced concrete chimney is 350ft high and the administration buildings, offices and canteen are steel framed and finished with brickwork. Architects: Sir Percy Thomas & Son. Contractors: Sir Robert McAlpine & Sons Ltd.



56 ▶

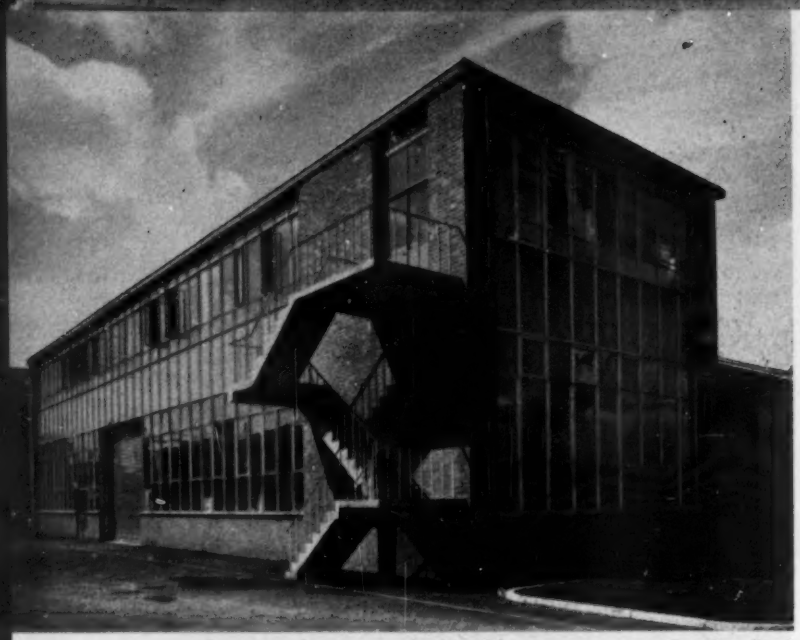
56. Entrance foyer of Pilkington Factory, St. Asaph

57 ▶

57. Blackwood Hodge, Cardiff. 58. Rogerstone Power Station for the Central Electricity Generating Board

58 ▶

INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS

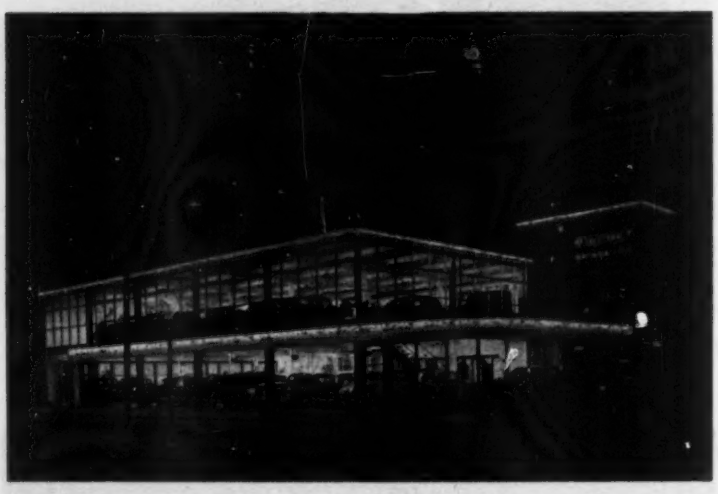


59

59. Factory extension for Standard Telephones & Cables Ltd., Newport

This is a factory extension (59) for Standard Telephones & Cables Ltd., planned with a clear floor space and office accommodation at either end. Steel-frame structure follows the pattern of the steelwork on the existing building. A cellular R.C. raft forms the foundation, with 11in cavity external walls and standard steel windows. The roof covering is asbestos big six sheeting with north lighting, lined on the underside with ¼in asbestos board. On two elevations of the offices standard windows are used as a curtain wall. Architects: F. R. Bates & Son. Contractors: E. C. Jordan & Son Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

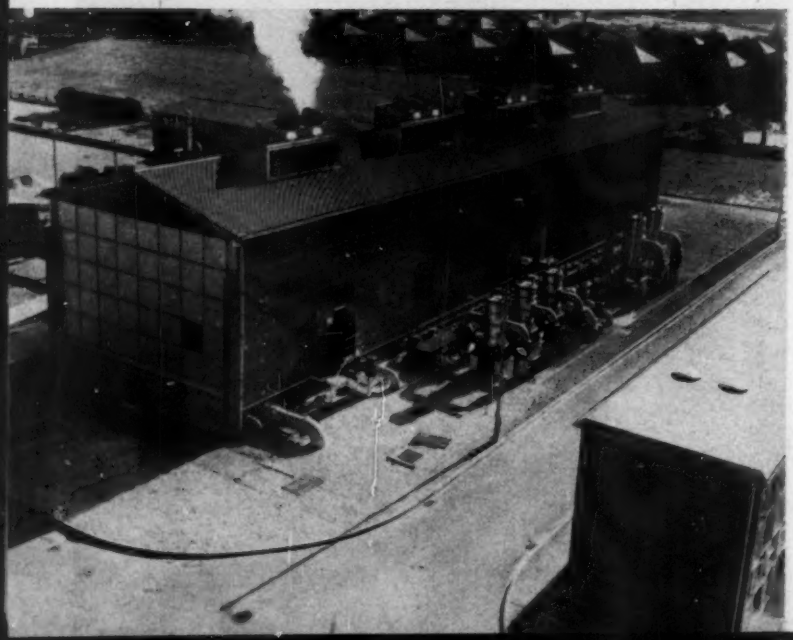


60

60. New motor showrooms for Windway Garage Ltd., Cardiff. 61. Wales Gas Board Works at Aberavon

The site for the new motor showrooms for Windway Garage Ltd. (60), lies between the main Cardiff-Swansea road and railway. The showroom illustrated forms part of a scheme of workshops and petrol filling station. It forms the first stage of a larger scheme, part of which is in course of construction. The building has a floor area of approximately 10,000 sq ft on two floors, interconnected by a lift. Cars on each floor had to be as visible as possible. On the ground floor sliding doors are provided to allow the greater part of the frontage to be open to the forecourt and pavement of the main road. Architect: W. Hugh Maton. Contractors: L. J. Hope Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆



61

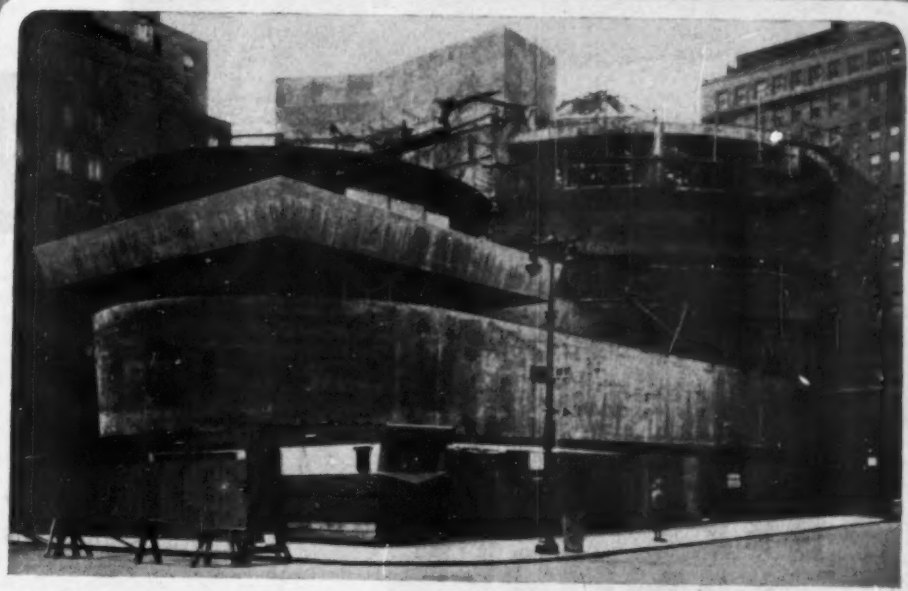
The W.G.B. Works at Aberavon (61). The architect's contribution was not merely to decorate the engineer's structures, but with the latter's full co-operation, to share in the design and siting of every unit, even the exposed plant and pipe supports.

The scheme involves the complete reconstruction of the works, changing it from a small traditional gas works into a large station handling coke oven gas from the Steel Company of Wales, blast furnace gas, methane and carburetted water gas, for purification and compression prior to distribution as far as Fishguard on the South Wales Grid. Architects: Lloyd and Gordon. Contractors: Peter Lind & Co. Ltd. (C.W.G. Plant), T. F. Howells & Co. Ltd., (Compressor House), Frank Batty & Smith (Meter Houses).

◆ ◆ ◆

The new Abbey filling station, Denbigh (62), replaces an old timber shack which did service as a filling station. The site is extremely confined, and a "tight" circulation for customer traffic was essential. An inner lane under the canopy is for private cars; the outer lane for high vehicles. Architect: S. Powell Bowen. Contractors: Clifford Hughes Ltd.

HOPE'S WINDOWS



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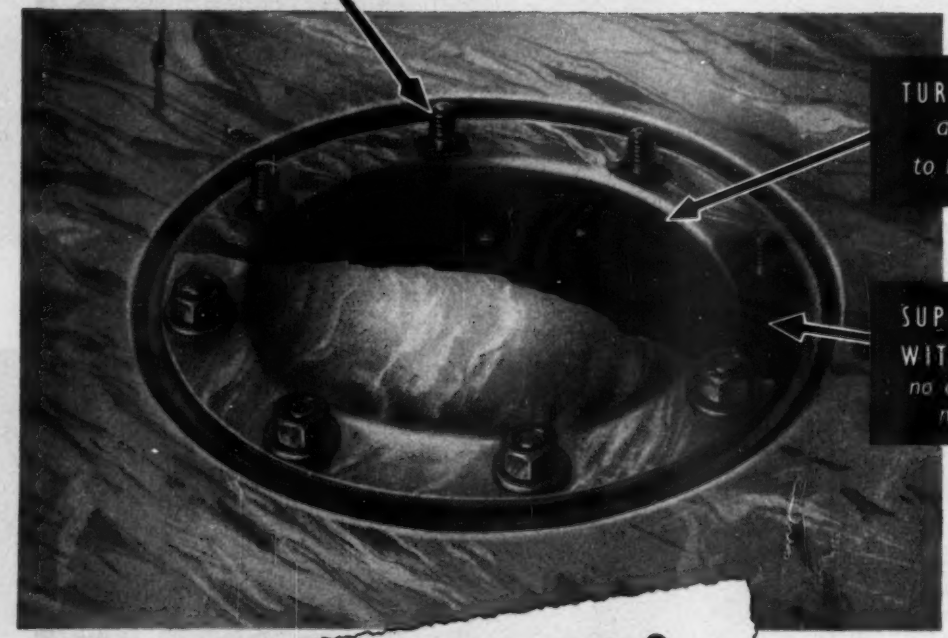

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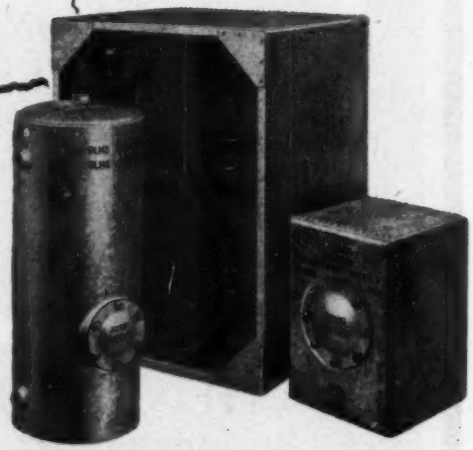

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Some indication of the size of the British Nylon Spinners' project can be envisaged by this view (63) of the main works: a new technical development department block, the main office block research block, original pilot plant building facing the entrance drive and ornamental pool. Additional offices and research blocks, together with large canteen, stores, buildings, etc., are situated at the rear. Architects: Sir Percy Thomas & Son. Contractors: Sir Robert McAlpine & Sons Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

Amlwch, on the north coast of Anglesey, from ancient times a port concerned with the shipping of locally mined copper, is set in surroundings of considerable, but austere, natural beauty. The locals were impoverished following the cessation of copper trading, and the Associated Ethyl Co.'s decision to construct their new factory at Amlwch (64) for the extraction of bromine from the sea, was a welcome promise of a return to prosperity. The buildings—only some are illustrated—cover about 30 acres, are served by 1¼ miles of railway. Glazing has only been used where absolutely necessary because of tempestuous weather conditions often experienced on that part of the coast. Architect: Martin Hutchinson. Contractors: Marples, Ridgeway & Partners.

◆ ◆ ◆

This factory (65) was built by the council and leased to Scotts Engineering Ltd., of Newport, so that the latter could set up their Dishlex Division at Monmouth for the manufacture of Dishlex dish-washing machines. This is an interesting example of a small rural authority making use of Government finance to carry out positive planning to offset shortage of work for their citizens. Cost: approximately £50,000. Architect: J. H. Evans. Contractors: J. Henry Williams & Sons (Ellwood) Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

Unlike the administrative buildings at Abbey Works (67), the office block at Velindre for the Steel Company of Wales (66) is sited on the main public road which runs past the mill, and is in fact outside the perimeter fence of the mill. The remaining administrative buildings are sited on the works side of the road. An interesting feature of the design is a tunnel for people as well as main services which leads right into the centre of the mill buildings. Thus, once an employee clocks in in the main hall, he can proceed to any part of the mill or the buildings under cover and without crossing any traffic routes. Architects: Sir Percy Thomas & Son. Contractors: Robert M. Douglas (Contractors) Ltd.

62 ▶

62. New Abbey filling station, Denbigh

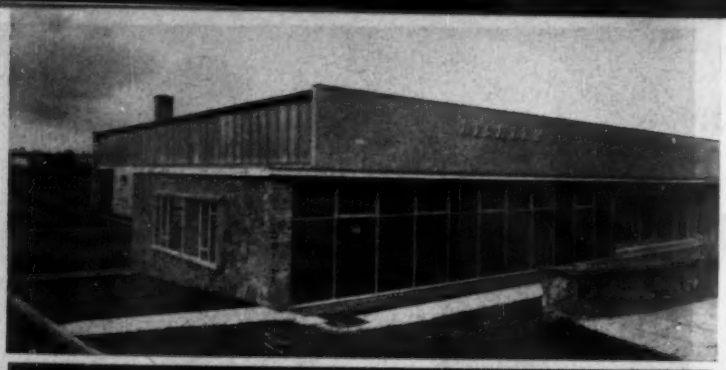
63. British Nylon Spinners' factory

63 ▶

64. Factory for the Associated Ethyl Co., Amlwch

64 ▶

INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS



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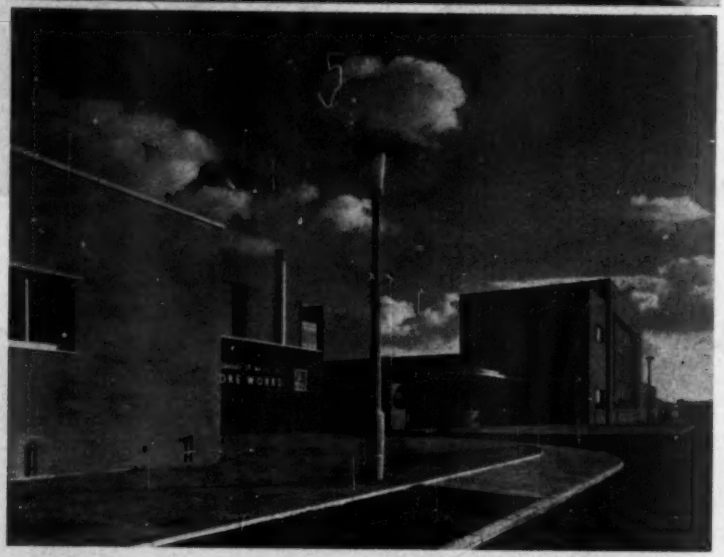


66

67

65. Factory for the Dishlex Division of Scotts Engineering Ltd., Monmouth. 66. Offices for the Steel Company of Wales, Velindre. 67. Administration buildings for the Steel Company of Wales. 68. New Berwyn works for Thomas Preston Ltd., Margam, Llangollen

The same firm of architects also designed the administration building of the Abbey Works of the Steel Company of Wales (67). They are sited at the main entrance to the works, approached by the bridge over the main London to West Wales railway line. The group consists of the main administrative office block, housing all departments including metallurgical laboratories and the main canteen block which provides meal facilities for all staff and kitchen facilities for the distribution of hot meals to the various mess rooms sited about the works. Contractors: John Morgan (Builders) Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

The New Berwyn works, Llangollen, for Thomas Preston Ltd. (68), was designed by architects Venables, Williams & Ball. The construction is brick-clad steel framing; the roof is portal framed with north lights traversing the full width of the building. Steel windows were purpose-made to the architects' design. Contractors: L. Brown & Sons Ltd.

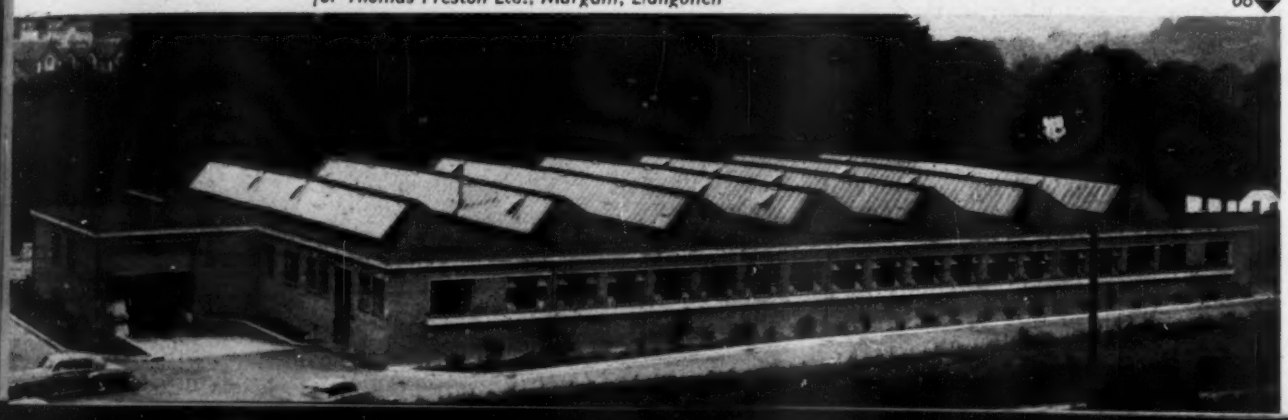
◆ ◆ ◆

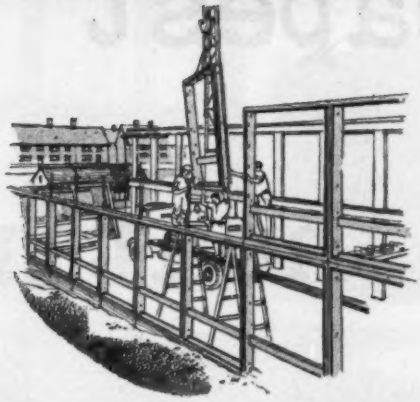
The clients for the surgery at Abergele (69) were three local doctors in a group practice who required new premises for the purpose. Requirements were for three consulting rooms, three examination rooms, receptionists' office and waiting room, with a flat for a resident caretaker. The building has been designed long and low to serve as a counterpoint to an existing church (see photograph). The flat is a separate building but linked to the surgery by a wide fascia and exposed joists. Architect: S. Powell Bowen. Contractors: Percy Jones (Rhyl)Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

For the new health clinic at Llanrumney (70), the medical officer of health required a homely building with a pleasant but not austere finish to serve the needs of a pre- and ante-natal and dental service. Accommodation includes a suite of consulting rooms with dressing room, recep-

68





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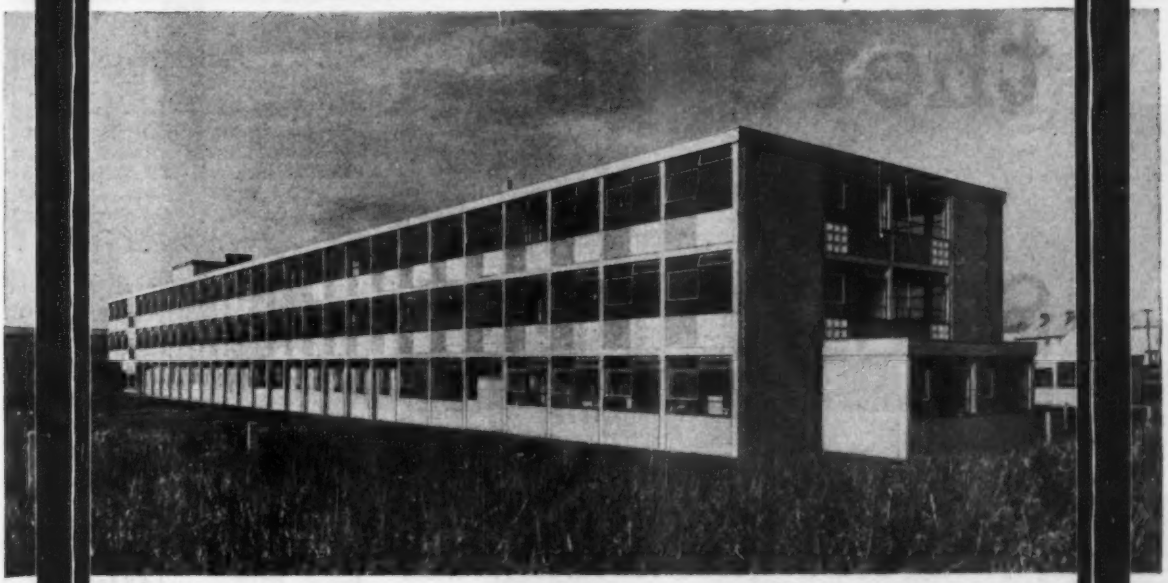

St. Kevin's R.C. Secondary Modern School, Leeds.

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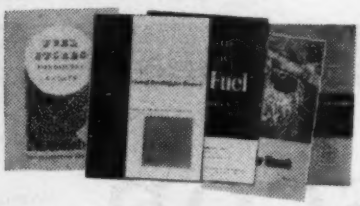

Compare the Running Costs! This table shows typical comparative costs for different fuels. These have been calculated for a 3 bedroom house of some 1000—1,200 square feet and are those of an *average* week's heating and hot water supply during the 30-week heating season. Fuel prices vary, of course, and local costs can easily be calculated from those given. If you would like the data on which these figures are based, write to the Coal Utilisation Council, 3 Upper Belgrave Street, London, S.W.1.

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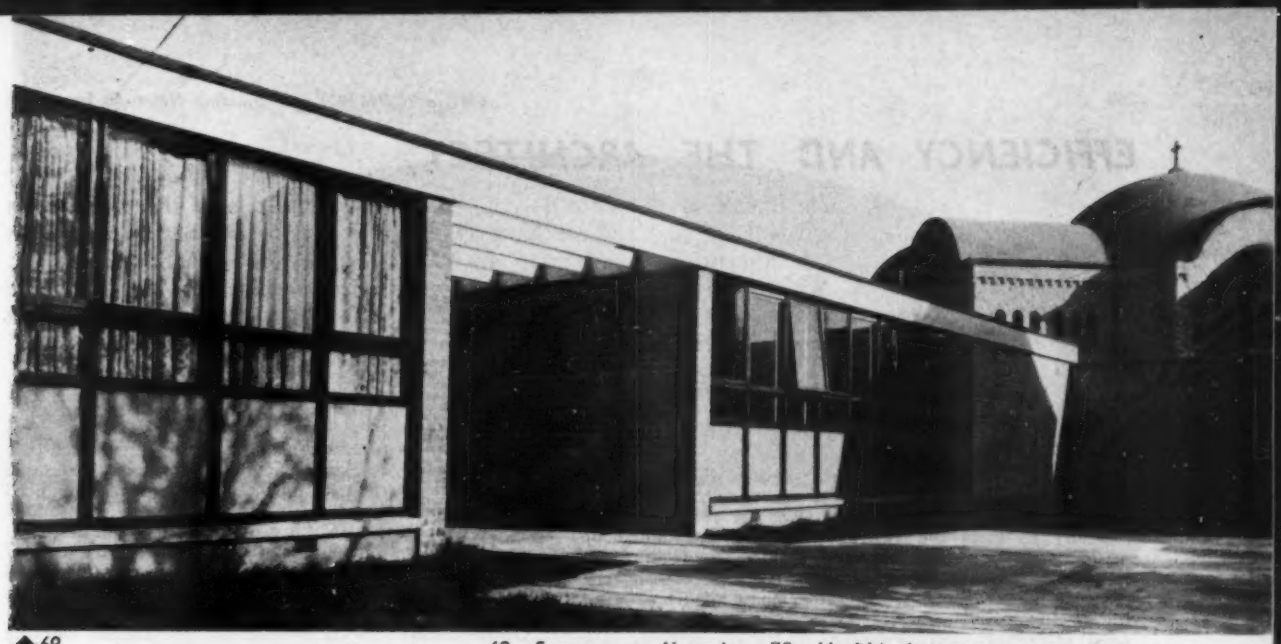


▲69

69. Surgery at Abergele. 70. Health clinic at Llanrumney. 71. Ward block for the new West Wales General Hospital, Llangwili. 72. Ambulance Control Station and Occupation Centre, Trealaw

HOSPITAL BUILDINGS

tion room and dispensary, a staff room and dental unit comprising surgery, recovery room, separate exit and an office. Contract sum: £23,559. Architect: J. Dryburgh, City of Cardiff architect. Contractors: C. Winstone (Builders) Ltd.

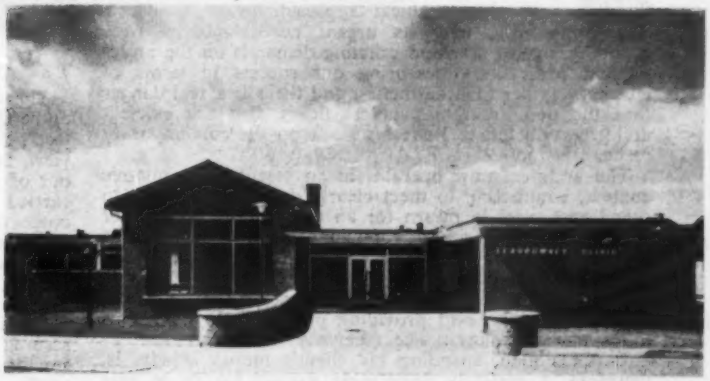
◆ ◆ ◆

The development plan for the West Wales General Hospital, Llangwili (71), caters for the needs of 400 patients, ultimately. Stage 1 of the development has just been completed and consists of the first ward block, for 96 patients, on three floors, the main boiler house for the whole hospital, and the first part of the nurses' home. Architects: Sir Percy Thomas & Son. Contractors: E. Turner & Sons Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

The Ambulance Control Station and Occupation Centre, Trealaw (72), for the Glamorgan County Council are built as two separate structures on a sloping site in the Rhondda Valley. The "top" structure (the Occupation Centre) is placed on a concrete raft floating on sand to overcome the problem of movement due to mining subsidence in the area. Accommodation includes dining hall, kitchen, staff rooms, classrooms for mental defectives. The Ambulance Control Station, separated from it by a recreation area, contains an administrative unit with control and staff rooms and amenities for the crews of the ten ambulances housed in the adjacent steel-framed garage block. Cost of two structures: approximately £42,000. Contractors: E. Taylor & Co. Ltd. Architects: Smith, Wilson & Cox.

70▶



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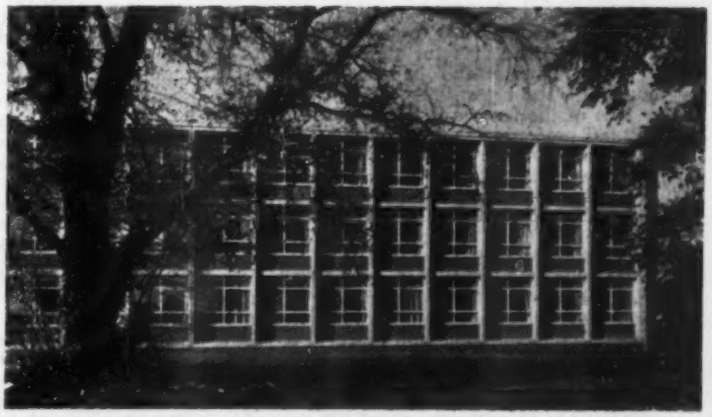

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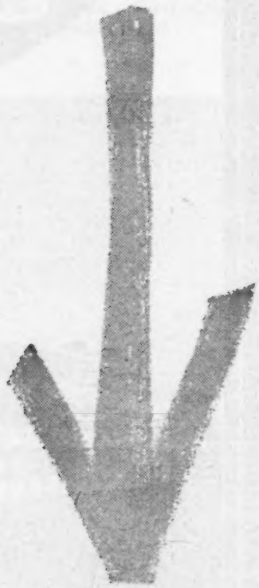

Cheapest Running Costs. A new generation of house hunters is insisting on central heating. They regard it as just as much of an essential as the water supply. It's as well then that *solid fuel* central heating has such rockbottom running costs. Look at the figures on the right: *no other fuel* can compare for cheapness with solid fuel.

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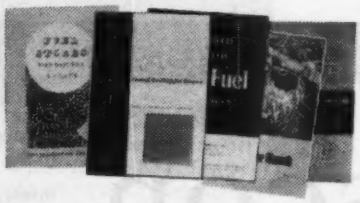

Compare the Running Costs! This table shows typical comparative costs for different fuels. These have been calculated for a 3 bedroom house of some 1000—1,200 square feet and are those of an *average* week's heating and hot water supply during the 30-week heating season. Fuel prices vary, of course, and local costs can easily be calculated from those given. If you would like the data on which these figures are based, write to the Coal Utilisation Council, 3 Upper Belgrave Street, London, S.W.1.

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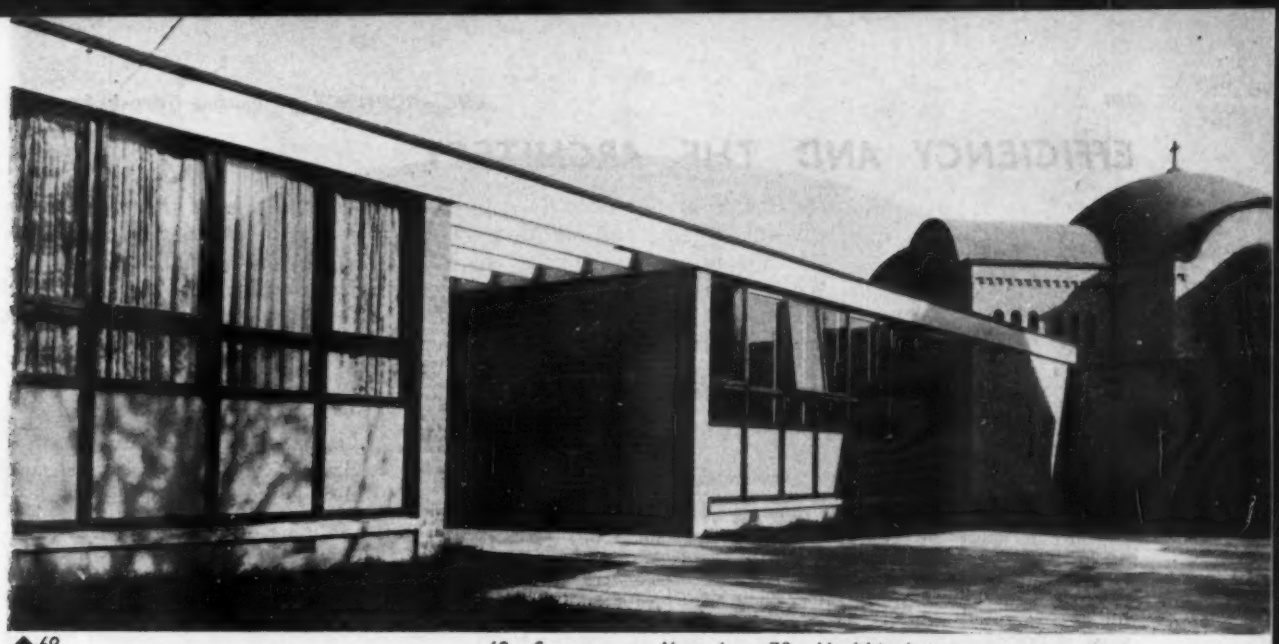
ELECTRICITY	**1d unit**	**45/7d***
OIL *Sectional Boiler Conversion*	**1/5d gallon**	**31/5d**

**Gas and Electricity costs exclude Standing Charge*



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69. Surgery at Abergele. 70. Health clinic at Llanrumney. 71. Ward block for the new West Wales General Hospital, Llangwili. 72. Ambulance Control Station and Occupation Centre, Trealaw

HOSPITAL BUILDINGS

tion room and dispensary, a staff room and dental unit comprising surgery, recovery room, separate exit and an office. Contract sum: £23,559. Architect: J. Dryburgh, City of Cardiff architect. Contractors: C. Winstone (Builders) Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

The development plan for the West Wales General Hospital, Llangwili (71), caters for the needs of 400 patients, ultimately. Stage 1 of the development has just been completed and consists of the first ward block, for 96 patients, on three floors, the main boiler house for the whole hospital, and the first part of the nurses' home. Architects: Sir Percy Thomas & Son. Contractors: E. Turner & Sons Ltd.

◆ ◆ ◆

The Ambulance Control Station and Occupation Centre, Trealaw (72), for the Glamorgan County Council are built as two separate structures on a sloping site in the Rhondda Valley. The "top" structure (the Occupation Centre) is placed on a concrete raft floating on sand to overcome the problem of movement due to mining subsidence in the area. Accommodation includes dining hall, kitchen, staff rooms, classrooms for mental defectives. The Ambulance Control Station, separated from it by a recreation area, contains an administrative unit with control and staff rooms and amenities for the crews of the ten ambulances housed in the adjacent steel-framed garage block. Cost of two structures: approximately £42,000. Contractors: E. Taylor & Co. Ltd. Architects: Smith, Wilson & Cox.

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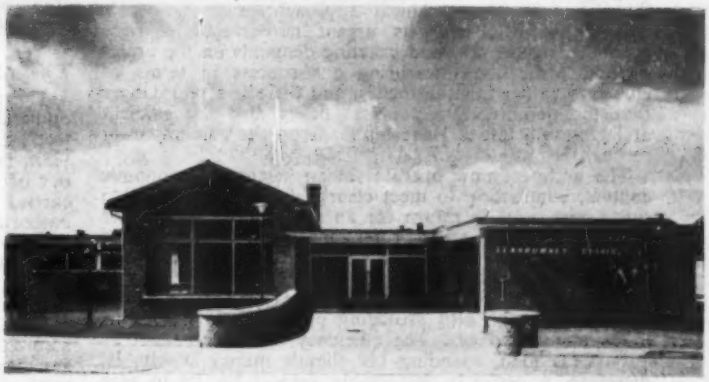

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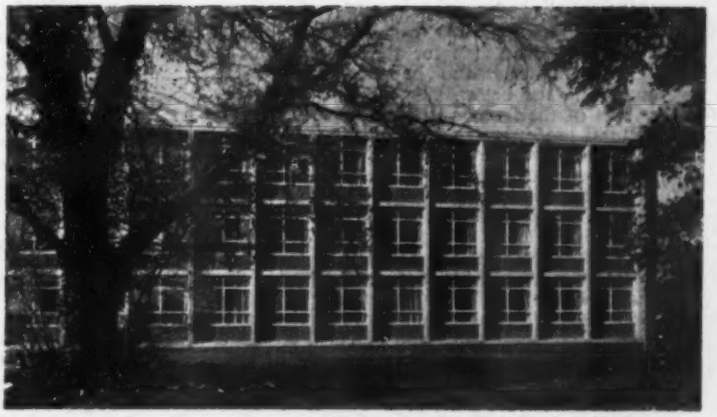

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EFFICIENCY AND THE ARCHITECT

The theme of the Cardiff conference will be the role of the architect in efficient building and the basis of discussion will be a series of articles on "Architectural Management" by W. S. Gauldie, and Arthur F. S. Wright, M.B.E., who are partners in a Dundee firm of architects. A. G. Sheppard Fidler, M.A., Vice-president, R.I.B.A., city architect, Birmingham, and Alick Low, of Norman and Dawbarn, open the discussion with these papers

A. G. Sheppard Fidler

Introduction

The theme of this conference is one which has the widest implications for all members of our profession. The practice of architecture has, over the years, changed radically to meet the vastly changed circumstances of world economics and progress in science and technology. It will be true to say that it is now a social service, very much of and for the people rather than an art catering for an aristocratic minority. The scope of the architect's work is immeasurably increased as society requires new buildings to meet new demands, and as our complex civilization advances.

We are living at a time when scientific knowledge is surging forward and society expects architects to adapt themselves to this technical approach to its activities. The community, with its urgent needs and its rigid economy, makes new and exacting demands on the architectural profession—measuring our success in terms of efficiency rather than aesthetics, and there is a real danger that the good architect, unless he is also the efficient architect, will fail to leave his mark on the contemporary scene.

The architect now operates in an essentially economic context, contracting to meet clearly defined needs and to spend vast sums in return for an agreed reward, whether fee or salary, like other professional men. (He must, of course, strive for grace and beauty, too, for that is an important reason for employing him at all.)

Mostly the client is paying us to meet his specific needs, only rarely is he also providing patronage to enable us to express ourselves. The efficiency of the architect as a business man, spending his client's money wisely, is, therefore, a perfectly respectable subject for us to rate highly, and needs no apology; for the sooner it becomes universal for architects to care as much for their reputations with clients as for their reputations among those fellow architects who happen to share their aesthetic judgment, the better.

It is of the first importance that members of the architectural profession should gain the respect and confidence of members of the public by consistently meeting practical needs with the utmost efficiency: provide the clients with a building which functions well and is built within the agreed limits of time and price, and they will be much more likely to follow the architect in matters of taste.

It follows that if the architect is to be recognized and accepted without challenge as the leader of the building team, he must conduct his own practice with a full realization that efficiency and productivity are not vague generalizations but real and practical problems which need his urgent and continuing attention. Efficiency is concerned with the whole business of architectural practice, both private and official, and with many other matters not concerned with the direct running of an office, but which condition and influence the method of practice and the architect's part in the building industry as a whole.

The conference papers include articles on "Architectural Management", by W. Sinclair Gauldie and Arthur F. S. Wright, who have set out a method study they have evolved to suit their office and conditions of practice. They outline the problem by considering "information" as it concerns the architect at the pre-contract stage, next, decision and drawings: the method by which the architect communicates his design to the client and builder. They finally deal with supervision and control. In their article the subject of office management is treated in considerable detail, but it is primarily the main principles which need discussion and elaboration at the conference. Most offices have evolved their own office organization, but as conditions constantly change, it is wise to review the means of office management used in practices of various size, and by discussion see whether reorganization and change is needed in the interests of efficiency.

Good management is essential to the efficient working of a practice, official or private. It has been said that management cannot produce good architecture, but there is no doubt that it can help to create conditions in which good architecture can flourish. A good organization, well administered, can give architects more time for their real job—the designing of buildings.

The Official Architect

The purpose of this short paper is to comment briefly on certain aspects of the subject "Efficiency and the Architect", more especially from the official architect's point of view, in order to promote a useful discussion. In 1958, out of a total of £1,200 million worth of building work carried out in Great Britain, Government and local authorities were responsible for over £500 million. Official practices, therefore, are responsible for a large proportion of the country's building work and it is essential that the architect's part in this work should be carried out with the greatest possible degree of efficiency.

Official practice enjoys the advantage of having an assured programme of work and of operating within the framework of an authority in which financial and administrative methods are already organized. However, its flexibility must be limited by the fact that it is a part of a very much larger organization with established rules and procedures, as well as having to conform to staff establishments and national salary scales.

The continuing programmes of housing and schools have meant that official practices have secured considerable knowledge and experience in dealing with the specialist design problems involved. The larger authorities can effectively conduct user research to supplement official guidance received through Ministry handbooks and other agencies. This information greatly assists efficiency by reducing the research time needed in the early stages of the project.

Cost

The subjects of cost analysis and expenditure planning have received increased attention from architects and quantity surveyors during recent years, and it is not intended to discuss them in detail at this conference. The need for cost planning is self-evident and the improved accuracy in tendering recently obtained, added to the practice of firm-price tendering, should convince anyone that a finer knowledge of building costs is an essential part of successful practice. It is worth while making the point that, because of the wide scope and continuity of work in an official architect's office, it is possible for a comprehensive knowledge of costs to be built up within the office. Most official architect's offices have quantity surveyors on their own staff and this gives an opportunity of real integration of effort and pooling of ideas and

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EFFICIENCY AND THE ARCHITECT

effective work studies. A useful scheme of interchange of cost information is also operating between certain local authority offices.

Time

In an efficient practice, design time is carefully related to the required quality of design, and perhaps one of the most interesting points made by Messrs. Gauldie and Wright is that which concerns the determination of the "calibre" of a job. If this is decided at the start it provides a most effective means of meeting the vital challenge on cost and time. It is important to complete work quickly as most clients are impatient to see building commence. Clients, and this includes Government Departments and local authorities, tend to underestimate the amount of time required for efficient design work in an architect's office. Even when the whole reasons for the necessity for so much time is explained, there is a strong desire to press the architect to get a scheme ready in a considerably shorter time than that which the job really requires. Many authorities are consequently attracted by the "package deal" type of contract for certain classes of buildings, which, it is claimed, give much speedier results at less cost. This is a challenge which has to be met by the official as well as private architects. How can the design time be reduced? One method which has been effectively used since the war, for school building, is the use of a prefabricated system, and architects have shown great ingenuity in adapting these systems to suit varying conditions of site and educational requirements.

In the case of certain types of buildings, the use of type details on some considerable scale can be made. Basic specifications can also help to reduce this time factor.

All architects' offices should, as a matter of course, keep details of "design hours" related to every job done, so as to be able to plan and programme their own work to meet the client's request for a firm date for the commencement of building operations.

Professional Fees

The question of professional fees is an important one in the official architect's office, no less than in that of a private architect, as an estimate of fees is required when a project is considered by committee. It is obvious that where a large number of specialist consultants are concerned, and paid fees according to the basic charges, it is possible for the level of professional fees to rise very steeply. In my view, very serious consideration should be given by the professions to the idea of the comprehensive design fee, and it is to be hoped that this will receive widespread support in the professions concerned with the building industry.

Although some official architects' departments include structural engineers, heating and ventilating engineers, and other specialist designers, a great many engage the services of consultants on projects of any size. When all the specialists are combined in one practice it is obviously a great advantage, as an efficiently integrated team can be built up, but such offices are the exception rather than the rule, as only the largest could support the right calibre of staff.

As far as architects' fees are concerned, many architects feel that the basic charge of 6 per cent needs reconsideration. In passing, it is worth noting that the American system in which the percentage of fees varies with the type of project (so that fees are related more closely and equitably to the design time) receives much support and is now being considered by the Practice Committee.

Consultants and Specialist Sub-Contractors

As stated above, if the design process of a complicated building involves the client in payment of fees to architects, quantity surveyors, structural consultants, heating, lighting and ventilating consultants, landscape consultants and others, it is possible for a very substantial professional fee to be incurred. In private practice this full service is only occasionally followed, as I believe it is common practice to request a "scheme" from a selected specialist sub-contractor or supplier, e.g., for structural frame, heating, etc., without competition. Such a practice is contrary to the spirit of the standing orders of most local authorities. In the public interest it is advisable, as far as possible, for all sections of the building work to be tendered for on a competitive basis, and this means that everything should be designed and specified. Obviously, in order to design at all, it is necessary for a number of structural and other decisions to be taken in advance of tendering, and in these cases the official architect can explain the situation to his committee and agree exceptions to standing orders. As building becomes more and more complicated, most local authorities have evolved a satisfactory method of procedure to cover this and other difficulties which might follow strict conformity with their own standing orders. As far as possible, however, competition is encouraged, not only in order to secure the best value for money, but also avoid the possibility of undue favour towards one firm. Certainly, the nomination of sub-contractors and suppliers can be carried to excess, and I have recently been concerned with a contract in which the provisional sums and P.C.s amounted to 75 per cent of the total. A completely opposite procedure is recommended in the recent report of the Royal Institute of Public Administration on "Building Contracts of Local Authorities". The relevant recommendations are:

The architect should:

(a) finish the detailed planning, even of particular items, before the contract is let and thus avoid including provisional sums in the contract (as far as practicable);

(b) reduce prime cost items to a minimum;

(c) avoid using the system of prime cost items to postpone full planning; which in effect makes such prime cost items into provisional sums.

Contracts and Contractors

Although most local authorities use the "R.I.B.A. Form of Contract Specially Adapted for the Use of Local Authorities", some local authorities still use their own forms. It is very much to be hoped that when the new form of contract is produced by the Joint Contracts Tribunal, on which local authorities are now represented, the use of the new form will become universal. This would be of the greatest benefit both to official architects and to the contractors who work with them. Uniformity of contract conditions could save a great deal of time and misunderstanding.

Some local authorities are still reluctant to accept the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Tendering Procedure, which advocated selective tendering, although experience has adequately shown that this is the only reasonable way of securing good building for projects of any size. Fortunately, the practice of using selected lists is increasing as its undoubted benefits become more apparent. Government Departments and local authorities are, however, willing to negotiate tenders for experimental work, to secure continuity of programmed work in certain circumstances, and for other special reasons. Perhaps I may raise again here the question of grading of contractors, since this would avoid the greatest difficulties that have occurred when small and inadequate firms have secured a large and important contract. From the point of view of architectural practice, such grading would be of enormous benefit.

Ministry Programming and Financial Control

One of the greatest brakes on efficiency in official architects' offices has been the financial system of annual

EFFICIENCY AND THE ARCHITECT

budgeting by Government Departments. Architects have made many representations that a year is too short a period in which to design a building and prepare a contract. The Ministry of Education have taken the lead in agreeing to formulate a programme of works covering two years, and it is to be hoped that other Ministries will follow this excellent example and make known their financial allocations sufficiently well in advance so that realistic timetables of work may be arranged. This is even more important now that firm price tenders are required. The architect needs to plan ahead and we must press Government Departments to enable us to do so.

One unfortunate result of financial control based on annual budgets, is the splitting of projects into sections or phases. On very large projects the need for this is understood, but for medium-sized contracts the practice creates uneconomic working and greatly increases the difficulties of design and supervision. Annual financial allocations have also produced the sudden request for architects to start work by a certain date, usually only two or three months away. It is extremely unlikely that any building can be started within such a short period, unless the complete scheme has remained "on ice" during the previous months—otherwise the building starts with inadequate preparation and is followed by inevitable disorganization due to lack of information. Architects will know from bitter experience that a building kept "on ice" is out of date, especially as far as costs are concerned, in a very short time, and when the tenders are received they are likely to be higher than the approved estimates.

These are some of the things which affect official practice as I see it. Other offices provide other problems, and I hope that a frank discussion will stimulate ideas to lead to some satisfactory solutions.

Alick Low

Sheppard Fidler has introduced the theme of this conference. In doing so he has made some pungent comments on the problems of office efficiency from the official architect's point of view. My task is to comment on the subject from the standpoint of a private architect—particularly a large private office.

As Mr. Fidler has said—conditions under which architects practice are always changing. We should, therefore, be constantly assessing the effects of these changes on our practices to see whether we are equipped to meet them. At fairly regular intervals we architects take a good look at our office procedure, and we are at the moment in the middle of one of these exercises. Whenever this happens we improve our organizations in detail. The results often find their way into the technical press; sometimes a working party produces a report telling us how much better it is done in America; the information book of Sir John Burnet, Tait and Lorne was a milestone in office administration; the American Institute of Architects publishes a handbook on office administration which every architect should read.

The scope of these surveys has been expanded with the years and recently we have become acutely conscious of, for example, our inefficiency at estimating building cost; our somewhat casual approach to job costing and earning in our own offices; and also the need of a new look for architectural education. We are still discussing how best to assess our architectural problems; how to collect information to solve them; the size of the paper on which we draw our solutions and whether to use microfilm to record our efforts. At the same time we are developing methods of estimating the time it takes to do these things and therefore the cost.

In some offices both official and private, these processes are well established, and as soon as our architectural schools recognize the need for teaching methods of administration and also creating interest in this subject amongst the students, efficient offices will become commonplace.

In spite of this attention to detail, however, it is noticeable that our efficiency is not always appreciated by the client. There is still not the degree of confidence given to the architect as in other professions. On the other hand, we are constantly being told to be more firm with our client and to make him understand that he cannot dictate the architectural style and that changes of mind are expensive.

One result of this is that many large jobs today are given directly to contractors by the client, because there is a feeling that they are the most efficient section of the building industry. This is a point of view we should analyse more closely, because it might give us a clue to the causes of some of our shortcomings. In other words, it might be useful to know just how much of building design can be, and sometimes is, done by the contractors. (Design meaning the design or selection of all the parts of a building.)

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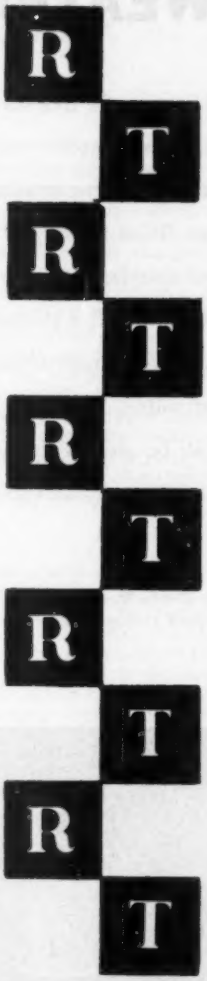
Structural engineering, which covers all the framework, floors, roof, foundations and stairs, can be done by a steel design and supply firm. Contractors are willing and able to design the electrical, heating, ventilating and sanitary engineering and advise on specialist equipment. A joinery firm could be asked to cope with the fixtures and doors, a roofing specialist the roof covering, and other specialists for the cladding and flooring. It only remains to have a well-known furniture and decorating contractor to prepare the schemes for all the major rooms, and the job is done, mostly by contractors, but, of course, with help from the quantity surveyor who is trained to fill in the remaining bits from sketch plans.

It seems that we are in danger of thinking of efficiency too much for our own benefit rather than the client's, whereas it is possible that our efficiency difficulties are due to some basic fault in our understanding of the job we are trying to do for the client. For example, we cannot administer the job properly and produce good architecture unless we control the various organizations which make up the design team.

In the world of private practice a hundred years ago architecture was a matter of masonry, wood, tiles and plaster and some plumbing. One building construction book and a few structural rules of thumb made up the architect's technical knowledge. With these and some scholarship, the great masters of the time created their works of art. The whole of this type of building could be measured, but this part of the work did not seem to appeal to the architect, and so either the builder or a quantity surveyor prepared the bill.

Following this came scientific advances in building; those of heating, ventilating, electrical power, structural engineering, and experts set up their own independent offices to advise architects on the more baffling parts of their job. Although all these are strictly building design problems, the architect did not recognize them as part of his responsibility.

Each of these specialists is now firmly established in the practice of designing in a field only vaguely familiar to the architect. Their office methods are different from ours and, in addition, they are trained and prefer to prepare the own schedules and bills. As their share of the work



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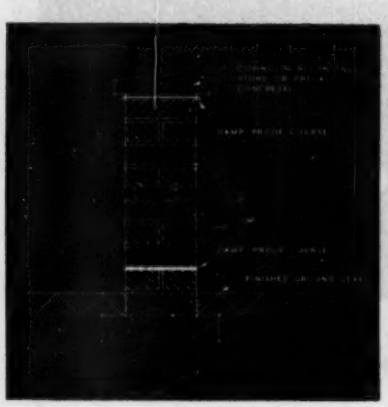

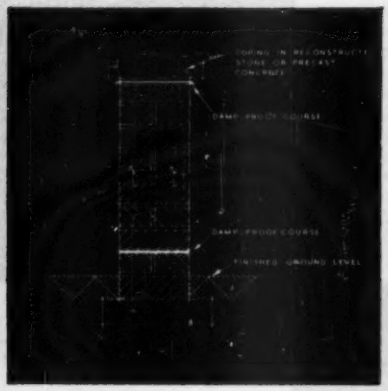

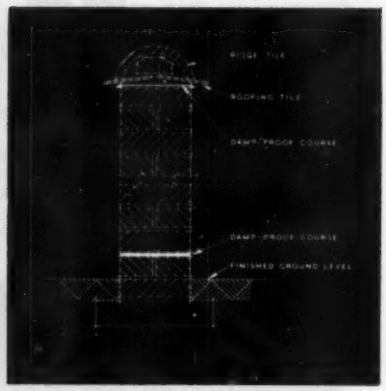

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EFFICIENCY AND THE ARCHITECT

increases, the value of the measured work decreases, and one can imagine that the measured part of building could in time disappear entirely. Even today, provisional sums and P.C.s often amount to 60 per cent of the total cost of a job on which fees are charged.

This ever-decreasing responsibility of the architect reduces his overall control of a job and the integration of the various designs becomes more difficult as the several specialist offices adopt their own way of working. Few specialist schemes are completed in detail before the sub-contracts are let, mainly because the sub-contractor himself produces details for the specialist to check, often after the building has already started. Therefore the constant prodding which the architect receives to complete everything before letting a contract, as we are told they do in America, has little effect because much of the detailing is outside his control.

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This lack of central design control has had certain very important results. One of these is the establishment of complete design teams by contractors, and hence the package deal. This seems to have been done in self-defence rather than from a thirst for power. Another consequence, not so obvious, is the desire on the part of some architects to establish themselves by selling a new fashion. Being ill-equipped technically for doing original work, they rearrange old pieces to form a succession of modern styles.

However, the most important effect of the private architect's loss of responsibility is the growth of the official architect's office and the offices attached to large industrial undertakings. We must recognize that both these have great advantages over the private practitioner. They have continuity of work often of a similar kind, which makes research both sensible and economic. Financial and administrative methods have already been established as part of the parent organization. But above all, these offices usually combine the various specialist designers under one roof and design responsibility is not divided. These advantages are all important, and the results can be seen in some of the excellent work done by this type of office since the war.

It seems, therefore, that we should retrace our steps back over the last 100 years and gather together again the responsibilities we have let go by default. But it will be a very difficult thing to do, as our specialist friends are settled in their ways and might not see the advantage of going into partnership with us; because this is what it should have been—a partnership of all the specialist designers needed to create a modern building.

Until we recognize the scope of our responsibility, it will be difficult to decide what we are going to be efficient about.

This, of course, brings up the question of the size of an architect's office, but it is clear that the complicated design problem does not occur in the office largely engaged on domestic work. Today, however, a vast amount of very complicated work has to be designed, both large and small, and it is this work that needs the attention of a comprehensive design team. This aspect does not affect the size of the office and therefore the amount of regular work it requires to survive.

A complete design partnership could undertake research of real significance which, although costly, would at least be available to back up their architectural ideas with sound reasoning. This team, working to the standards of good office administration already considered in such detail, might offer a service which would increase the chances of continuity of work. Without this security the private architect's job can become a problem of staffing, financing and job-getting with little time left for architecture.

Briefly, the purpose of this paper is to query the basis on which the efficiency of an architect's office is organized, and to say that if our offices are not capable or prepared to take complete design responsibility, they will not in the long run be entrusted with a continuous supply of work; or produce good architecture.

A decorative feature at the Harlequin Puppet Theatre, Rhos on Sea, Colwyn Bay, which is further illustrated on page 761. The theatre comprises green room, puppet stage, apron stage, auditorium with raked seating for 126 persons, foyer, box office and toilets, and has been built in the wooded grounds of Aberhod, on the site of three derelict cottages, the front and rear stone walls of which now form the flanking walls of the auditorium to accord with the client's wishes. Architect: G. Parry Davies

Some of the 2 bedroom houses for the Borough of Denbigh. They have 2 storeys at the rear. The floor area is 619 sq ft and the cost inclusive of road and site works is £1,350 each. Construction is 11in cavity walls, fair faced slate brick externally, clinker block internally and solid ground floor with Marley floor tiles. E.J.M.A. non-standard window units with Turners Colourglaze asbestos stallboard panels. The roof covering is Marley Anglia tiles. Architect: G. Parry Davies of G. Parry Davies and S. Powell Bowen, A/A.R.I.B.A.; quantity surveyor: Robert W. Howe, F.R.I.C.S.; contractors: T. A. Jones & Co.

Industrial Notes

● York Shipley Ltd. have recently dispatched what are believed to be the first single-stage turbo compressor water chilling systems to be exported from Great Britain to the Middle East. They are for use in the air conditioning services of the Ahmadi Hospital, Kuwait, and comprise two systems using Arcton 9 (Freon II) refrigerant. Each system is rated to cool 875 gall/min, recirculating chilled water from 53 deg to 45 deg F. This represents a heat removal of 4·2 million B.Th.U./hr. The Brightside Heating & Engineering Co. Ltd. are the main contractors for all the air conditioning installations and for all other services in the hospital.

● Concrete (Southern) Ltd. have opened a new works at Chadwell St. Mary, near Tilbury, with the object of improving the service to contracts in the region east of London.

● The new factory of H. J. Heinz & Co. Ltd. which was opened on May 21, at Kitt Green, near Wigan, by the Lord Chancellor, the Rt. Hon. Viscount Kilmuir, G.C.V.O., will not only give employment to over 1,700 people in the area, but will consume more water per day than the existing population of Wigan. Wallace & Tiernan Ltd. installed the cleansing equipment for the food processing plant floors and G. C. Pillinger & Co. Ltd. supplied the pressure tanks and the water pumping and boosting equipment.

● The 16-page supplement on Fibre Building Boards which appeared in *The Architect & Building News* of February 25, 1959, has now been reprinted in booklet form. It covers the many types, properties and uses of hardboard and fibre insulating board and includes lists of brands which detail the available sheet sizes, thicknesses, flame-retardant treatments, etc. Copies of the booklet can be obtained free of charge from FIDOR (Fibre Building Board Development Organization), Stafford House, Norfolk Street, London, W.C.2 (telephone: Covent Garden 3008).

● We regret to record the death of Mr. S. R. Smith, secretary of the Express Lift Co. Ltd. of Northampton. Mr. Smith, who was 69 years of age, has been succeeded by Mr. A. J. Brown.

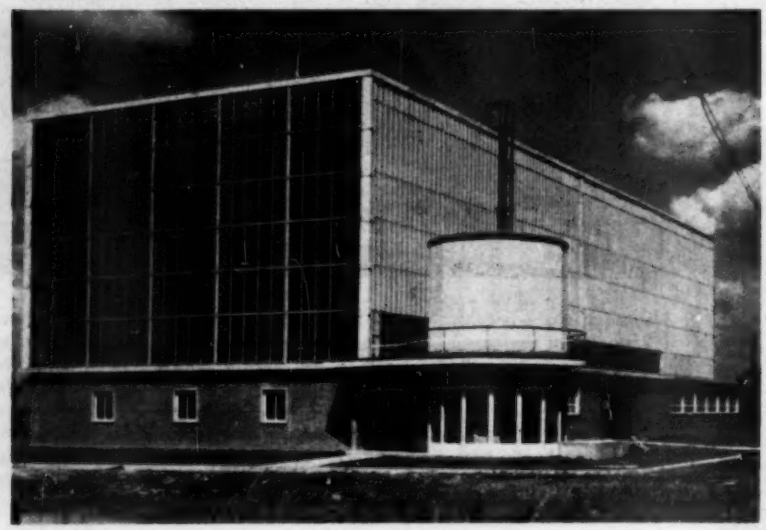
● The Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers Ltd. show a net surplus for the year ended December 31, 1959, of £5,069,402 before taxation, compared with the previous year's result of £4,951,183.

● The British Portland Cement Manufacturers Ltd. show a net surplus for the year ended December 31, 1959, of £3,058,603 before taxation, compared with the previous year's result of £2,736,957.

● Alpha Cement Ltd. show a net surplus for the year ended December 31, 1959, of £961,028 before taxation, compared with the 1958 result of £915,412.

● Courtaulds Ltd., of Coventry, who now control the British Celanese Works at Spondon, near Derby, have ordered a new staff canteen to be built at a cost of £34,000 by Ford & Weston Ltd., of Derby.

The new Burning Building at the D.S.I.R. Fire Testing Station, Elstree, Herts, was designed by the Directorate of Works, Ministry of Works, to whom Donovan H. Lee, M.I.C.E., acted as consultant for the structural design in collaboration with the Chief Structural Engineer's Branch of the Ministry. Contractors: Tersons Ltd.



● The Carron Company, of Carron, Falkirk, Stirlingshire, which was established in 1759, has produced an illustrated book entitled "The Story of Carron Company". The book sketches the history of the company since its inception and copies can be obtained from Falkirk, at a price of 6s.

● Quickset Water Sealers Ltd., a member of the Cementation Group of Companies, has been awarded a £40,000 contract in connection with the new *Daily Mirror* building, now being erected in Holborn Circus, London. The contract involves the application of Tyloglaze, the company's glazed cement process, to the printing hall and considerable areas of walls, ceilings, soffits, corridors and staircases in the new building.

● At a recent meeting of the council of The English Joinery Manufacturers' Association it was decided that all recommendations of the Association, which had been registered under the Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1956, should be abandoned.

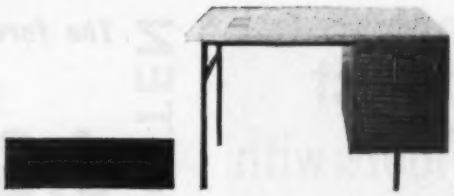
● The Truscon Group show a profit, after providing for taxation, for the year ended, December 31, 1958, of £27,081, compared with the 1957 figure of £39,102. A dividend of 4½d per ordinary share has been recommended.

● The British Iron & Steel Research Association's annual report for 1958 has just been published. It reveals that BISRA's total income for the year amounted to £815,019, of which £600,000 was contributed by the British Iron & Steel Federation and £120,000 was earned as a Government block grant. Amongst the interesting topics mentioned in the report are the use of radioactive isotopes as tracers in the study of diffusion and mixing in the slag layer; how closed-circuit television will help in measuring accurately the dimensions of hot forging stock, moving rod, etc.; the experiments being made to improve the methods of applying and curing lacquers on strip metal; and latest developments in P.V.C.-coated steel.

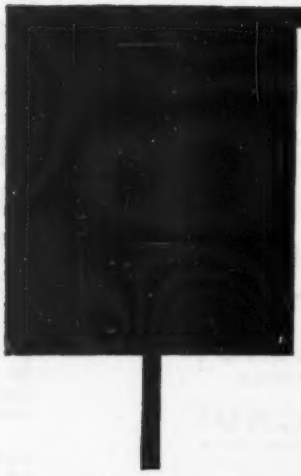
● The Graham Cherry Organisation, of 41 Parliament Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1, has taken over responsibility for the editorial, advertising and production of *Property*, the national monthly real estate magazine. The Organisation will also act as public relations advisers to the National Federation of Property Owners.

CORRECTION

On page 636 of Current Market Prices which appeared in our issue of 13/5/59, the additional percentage of 22 per cent quoted for Iron Soil and Waste Pipes should read as 22½ per cent.



Robin Day has designed and Hille are producing the remarkable and inexpensive new 'Status' series of office desks, tables and storage units



Working tops, frames and cabinets in many sizes are capable of countless arrangements to fit space and function. All are as well made as their fine appearance suggests.

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Industrial Notes

● Following closely on the Yale & Towne Manufacturing Co.'s acquisition of the Willenhall lock-making firm of E. Tonks & Sons Ltd., the company has made changes in the composition of its lock and hardware sales organization. Mr. E. A. Venner now assumes responsibility for domestic sales only, but in addition to the Yale range he will promote the Etas range made by Tonks. Mr. S. E. Palmer has been made trade relations manager and an export sales manager will shortly be appointed. Mr. R. J. Abrahams has been appointed general sales manager with the task of co-ordinating domestic and export sales and the company's relations with its customers.

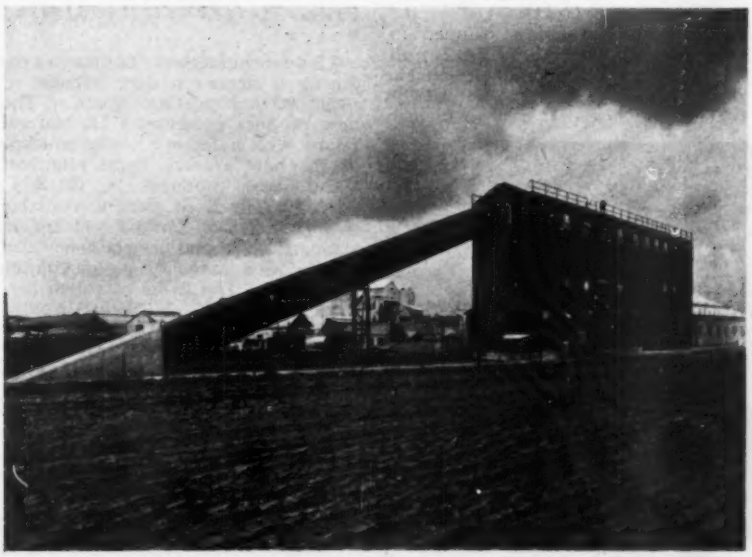
● A group of industrial executives from India, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda recently visited the Braintree works of the Crittall Manufacturing Co. Ltd. for a talk by Mr. Michael Crittall about company welfare schemes. This was arranged by the Industrial Welfare Society and formed part of an eight-week course designed to give the students a first-hand insight into personnel, welfare and training schemes operating in progressive industrial and commercial concerns in Britain.

● It is estimated that the sales turnover of the Eastwoods Group reached a new record level during the year ended, March 31, 1959 and that the profits for that period will show an increase compared with the preceding year. An interim dividend of five per cent, less tax, has been declared on the ordinary shares and it is anticipated that a final dividend of ten per cent will be recommended in due course.

Fanum House, the recently opened office of the A.A., in Manchester, has an underground car park with access from the street by lift. Curtain walling cladding is by Holoplast Ltd., sub-contractors to John Thompson Beacon Windows Ltd. Architects: Stephenson, Young & Partners

● A party of some 100 Luton, Dunstable and London businessmen recently attended a preview of the show bungalow on the Chilterns Estate, Poynters Road, Luton. The Chilterns is claimed to be Britain's largest oil-fired housing estate and it is being built by Pearce & Barker Ltd. who are working in close collaboration with Shell-Mex and B.P. Ltd. It is due to be completed in 18 months and will consist of 283 homes of three types. These are bungalows, chalet-bungalows and houses, all semi-detached, costing £2,460, £2,470 and £2,435, respectively.

A view from the south east of the Gotham Company's new factory at Gotham. An older part of the factory can be seen beyond the long, covered inclined conveyor carrying the gypsum rock



● Mr. James H. Dobby has been appointed secretary of The Villiers Engineering Co. Ltd. in succession to Mr. A. White, who has retired.

● Richard Baxendale & Sons Ltd., of Chorley, Lancs, have appointed Mr. R. M. Findlay as their representative in the Midlands and Wales.

● Mr. W. H. Rhodes has been appointed information officer to the British Columbian Lumber Manufacturers' Association.

● Mr. W. B. Spencer, general manager of the Contractors' Plant Dept. (Southern Area) of Thos. W. Ward Ltd., has relinquished the position, on medical advice. Mr. D. C. Coates has succeeded Mr. Spencer and Mr. E. L. Ward is the new sales manager.

● British Paints Ltd. have appointed Mr. H. W. Looker as head of their colour advisory service.

NEW PRODUCTS

In this feature are reviewed new lines introduced to the building industry for the first time and additions or improvements to existing ones. Any advantages claimed for a product are from information supplied by the manufacturer

New Adhesive for P.V.C. Wall Coverings

The latest addition to this manufacturer's range of adhesives is Evo-Tex 820 which has been specially produced for use with P.V.C. cotton-based materials. It is a water-based emulsion formulated from thermo-plastic resins and is claimed to be moisture-proof, fungus-proof and resistant to high temperature and high humidity. Already this adhesive has been given approval and recommendation by the makers of such P.V.C. materials as Rydura, Vynide, Vynair and Lionide whose tests are stated to have shown that it provides a strong bond, does not stain and is simple to apply. For wall decoration, a thin coating of the adhesive should be applied by brush to the decorative P.V.C. and the material hung immediately, and in the same way as wall-paper. Best results will be obtained by first lining the wall with a good quality plain paper, as some P.V.C. materials are slightly transparent. No other preparation is necessary. Tools used for Evo-Tex 820 can be cleaned with water and detergent.

Evode Ltd., Industrial Adhesives Division, Common Road, Stafford.

Readers' Information Service, Ref. A. Date 10/6/59.

★

New Diesel Dumper (B)

This manufacturer has produced a new 15cwt diesel dumper, known as the Nimbus T.3. It has capacities of 16 cu ft water level, 18 cu ft struck and 22 cu ft heaped. It has a low centre of gravity and a turning radius of under 8ft. The engine is a 5/6 h.p. Petter diesel with dry filter, air and oil cleaners. Noteworthy features include a hypoid axle with four star differential, robust instantly accessible clutch, and slow running totally enclosed chain reduction, on short centres, without jockey wheels. The machine has three forward speeds and reverse, constant-mesh gear box and worm and cam type steering, whilst the hand controls are situated on the right-hand side of the driver. The floorboards are of chequered plate. Price: £327 10s ex works.

Thwaites Engineering Co. Ltd., Cubbington, Leamington Spa. Leamington Spa 3089.

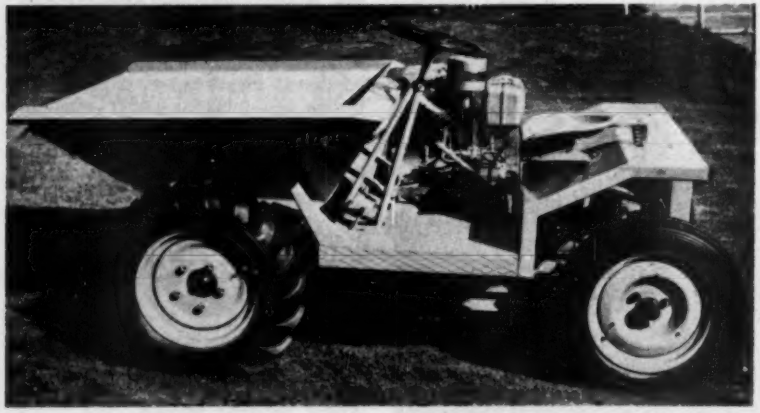
Readers' Information Service, Ref. B. Date 10/6/59.

★

Portable Electric Tools (C)

This company has recently introduced three portable electric tools to the U.K. market which are manufactured by their associate company in Maryland, U.S.A. These are a jig-saw (illustration), a belt sander, and a router. The U10 jigsaw, which has two-handed control, is claimed to be capable of cutting straight, curved or irregular lines, and large or small circles, following intricate pattern lines, and making pocket cuts in panels, skirting boards or floors without a "lead" hole. Blades are available for cutting wood, plywood, metal, plastics, leather, and composition material of all kinds. Weight: 3¼lb; length: 8in; no-load: 3750 ¼in strokes/min. Maximum capacity: 1¼in in softwood and 1in in hardwood. Standard voltage: 240 a.c/d.c. Price: £18 17s 6d.

The belt sander is of the 3in heavy duty type, incorporating a close-coupled vacuum unit, worked by the sander motor, which is claimed to suck up more than 80 per cent of all fine dust into a special detachable zipper bag. It is stated to be suitable for car body repair work, all regular



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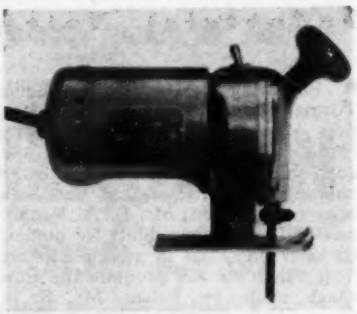

C

sanding operations and for the bevelling of glass and sanding of resins. It has a timing belt drive which does not require lubrication and an extended rubber covered front roller for sanding on concave surfaces. The machine has a quick-action belt changer and a tracking knob for belt adjustment: Weight, 15lb. Dimensions: 13¼in high by 7¼in wide by 21¼in long. Standard voltage: 240 a.c./d.c., but 115, 125 or 220 V motors can be supplied if required. The third machine, a 1 h.p. heavy duty router, operates by direct drive at a speed of 21,000 r.p.m., using no gears. It can be used for many jobs, including beading, grooving, fluting, cove-cutting, dove-tailing, veining, chamfering, rabbeting and mortising. The machine is suitable for inlay work, decorative edging and many kinds of bas-relief carving and wood finishing. Chuck capacity: ¼in. Depth adjustment: 0 to 1in in 64ths. Total linear vertical movement: 1⅛in. Overall height: 6¼in. Weight: 7lb. Standard voltage: 240 a.c./d.c., but 115, 125 or 220 V motors can be supplied.

Black & Decker Ltd., Harmondsworth, Middlesex. West Drayton 2681.

Readers' Information Service, Ref. C. Date 10/6/59.

★

Flame-retardant Insulating Board

This manufacturer is now producing a flame-retardant version of their P.D. Insulating Board. The new product combines P.D. Natural Board with a factory coated surface of the new Trerock flame retardant paint (New Products, A. & B.N., 25/2/59). It is at present available in thicknesses of ½in, ¾in and 1in, in standard sizes and in plain bevelled panels, in a range of pastel colours and white. The flame retardant surface is rated Class I—Surface Spread of Flame Test, B.S. 476/1953. Other claims are that it is not materially affected by water or humidity, gives rise to no noxious fumes under the influence of heat, is not corrosive to metals and remains flame retardant indefinitely.

J. R. Gordon & Co. Ltd., Newgate Street, Chester. Chester 22707.

Readers' Information Service, Ref. D. Date 10/6/59.

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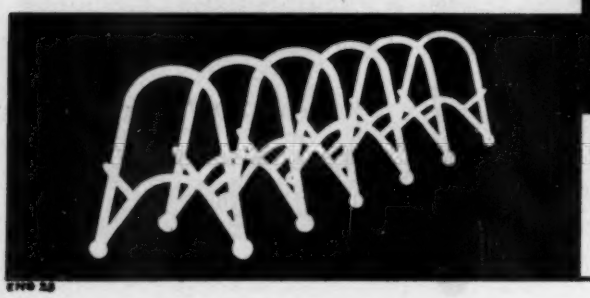

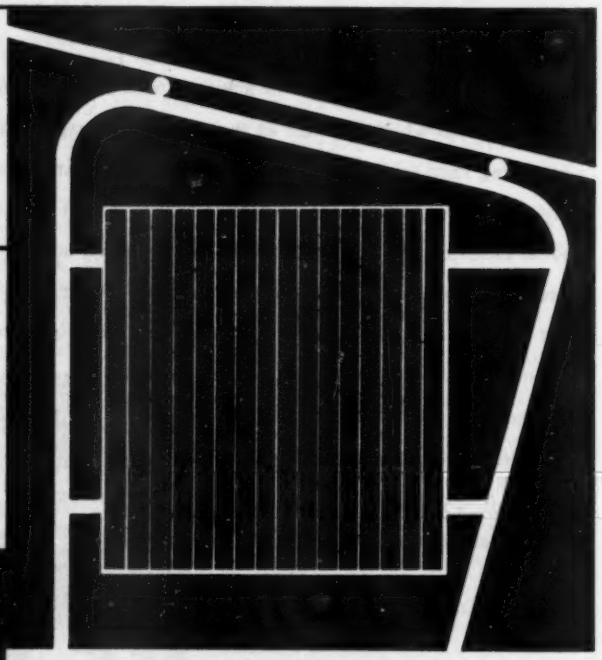

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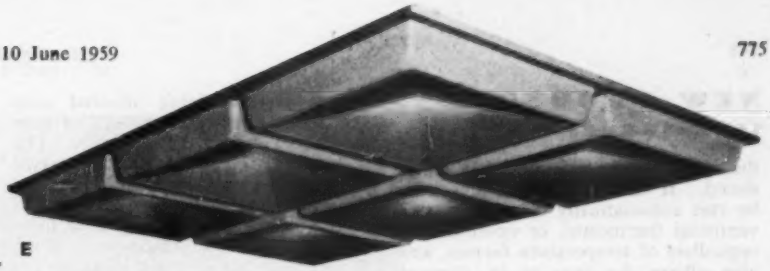
M·A·C ENGINEERING (BRISTOL)
AVON WORKS, BRISTOL 3 Tel. 6-4065

NEW PRODUCTS (continued)



E

Suspended Ceiling (E)

The Brite-Glo suspended ceiling is designed principally for domestic interiors, i.e., kitchens, bathrooms etc., but it has many other applications in shops, stores and offices. It is supplied as a packaged unit and is available in two standard sizes: 6ft by 4ft with 2ft square plastic diffusers, and 9ft by 6ft with 3ft square plastic diffusers, supported in a metal "T" frame. Other frame sizes to accommodate 2ft and 3ft square diffusers can be made to suit special requirements. Fluorescent units are fixed on the structural ceiling and the Brite-Glo ceiling is suspended underneath by chains. Our illustration shows the ceiling fitted with formed plastic panels, the design of which is one of the standard patterns, but panels can be made to customer's specification.

Courtney Pope (Electrical) Ltd., Amhurst Park Works, Tottenham, London, N.15. Stamford Hill 1270.

Readers' Information Service, Ref. E. Date 10/6/59.

★

Safety Tool for Jubilee Clips

The manufacturers of the Jubilee wormdrive hose clips have produced a special non-slip safety tool known as the Jubilee Clipdriver. The tool, which is made of bright cadmium plated mild steel, is simple both in conception and design. It has a spring-steel tongue insert to engage in the slot of the screw-head, and a sleeve extended over the insert fits around the screwhead and prevents slipping. The "T" bar is set at an angle to the main shaft of the Clipdriver to prevent the application of a large tube or socket spanner. The new tool is designed to fit Jubilee clips only and is made in one head size, as the screw slot in the Jubilee clip range is standard for all sizes. It is, however, made in two lengths, 6in at 4s 9d and 3½in at 4s 6d each, retail.

L. Robinson & Co. (Gillingham) Ltd., London Chambers, Gillingham, Kent. Gillingham 5282.

Readers' Information Service, Ref. F. Date 10/6/59.

★

New Paper for Semi-dry Development

Following the introduction, earlier this year, of Ammonax Superspeed paper for gas development, this company is now producing a dyeline material for semi-dry development known as Unax Superspeed. It is available in two speeds and on medium or lightweight paper. Good quality prints can be produced from old or worn originals without loss of printing speed, and legible prints from many materials previously considered unsuitable for dyeline reproduction. New possibilities in document copying are also opened up by the introduction of this range of papers. Unax Superspeed materials are available in rolls 30in and 40in wide by 10, 20 or 50yd long and in cut sheets. Samples for testing purposes will be sent on request to the suppliers.

Hall Harding Ltd., Stourton House, Dacre Street, London, S.W.1.

Readers' Information Service, Ref. G. Date 10/6/59.

★

Plastic Floor Emulsion

A new plastic emulsion is the latest addition to the Ronuk range of floor finishes. It is claimed that the new product, which can be quickly and smoothly spread over large areas, will give a bright, waterproof and anti-slip surface to Marley, Semastic, rubber, Accotile, polyvinyl chloride, bitumastic, asphalt, linoleum, hard and soft wood, concrete, granolithic and concrete compound floors. The emulsion is a special liquid blend of plastic resins and is entirely free of spirit solvents. Even with previously wax polished floors, it can be used simply by removing the surface wax with Ronuk Floor Cleaner. The wax that has been absorbed into the floor will help to achieve a more economical finish by acting as a filler and keeping the emulsion on the surface. New wood, concrete, linoleum, granolithic and concrete compound floors should be sealed with Ronseal to prevent undue absorption of the emulsion on first application. Due to the incorporation of special wetting agents, the product spreads rapidly and smoothly, and will, it is claimed, become completely waterproof in 24 hours and protect the floor from dirt and stains. The emulsion never needs any rubbing up, and the finish, which lasts for weeks, is kept clean and bright by dry or damp mopping in between applications. Several coats are recommended for a first application on all floors. Coverage per gallon: 4,000 sq ft, on bitumastic and asphalt floors; and 5,000/7,000 sq ft, on thermoplastic tiles, P.V.C., rubber and all floors sealed with Ronseal. Prices: 1 gal.—28s, 5 gal—130s.

Ronuk Ltd., Portslade, Sussex.

Readers' Information Service, Ref. H. Date 10/6/59.

★

Modified 1¼in Pump (I)

A new and entirely revised version of the Alcon 1¼in pump is now available, powered by air cooled petrol engines of either English or American manufacture. The English engine is the single-cylinder, 4-stroke Jap/Villi Mk. 10/1, developing 1·6 b.h.p. at 3,400 r.p.m. American units available are either the Briggs & Stratton model 60331, developing 1·95 b.h.p. at 3,000 r.p.m. or the Clinton model A2190 Gem, developing 2·15 b.h.p. at 3,000 r.p.m. In both cases the American engines are single-cylinder, 4-stroke types. The pump itself has been completely redesigned to give maximum output of 4,800 Imp. gal/hr and maximum total head of 92ft with the Jap engine. With the American engines these figures are 4,600 Imp. gal/hr and 90ft head. Design improvements in the main pump body now make maintenance a simpler matter. The impeller and seal are now accessible through the removal of the inspection plate, whereas previously the complete pump body had to be removed. To improve the resistance to abrasive matter in the water, the pump body and other components are now made in hiduminium and the impeller is made in forged hiduminium 55 W. Weights: 57lb (with English engines) and 42lb (with American engines). Prices: £36 10s (Jap/Villiers Mark 10/1); £31 10s (Briggs & Stratton); and £28 10s (Clinton).

Arthur Lyon & Co. (Engineers) Ltd., 6 Carlos Place, Grosvenor Square, London, W.1. Hyde Park 9141.

Readers' Information Service, Ref. I. Date 10/6/59.

★

New Thermostat

Unit heater installations in factories and other large areas can now be controlled entirely from a new

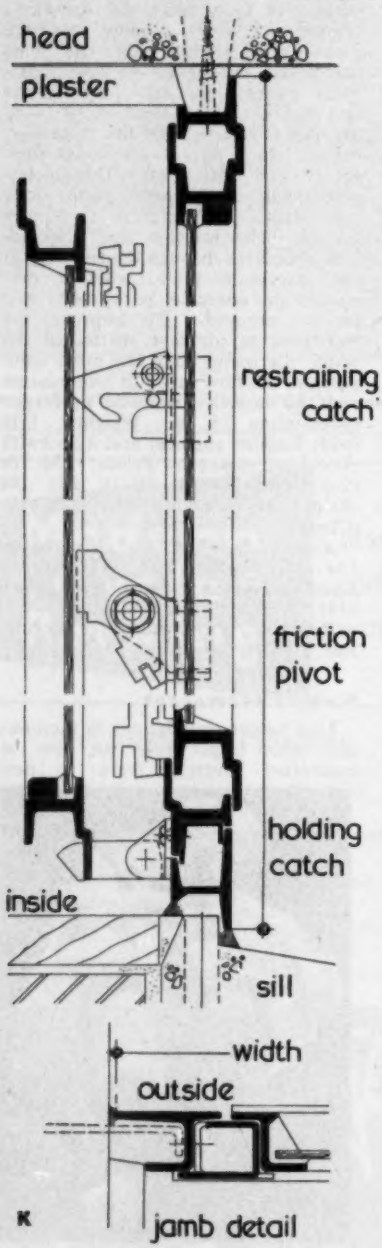
I

NEW PRODUCTS (continued)

thermostat which this firm has introduced. It enables the equipment to be run automatically as with a conventional thermostat, or continuously regardless of temperature factors, and also allows the fans to be stopped completely when the space is to be unoccupied for long periods. The new thermostat also provides a domestic service for loads up to 4 kW. The heavy loading allows for the installation of appliances which will heat the room much faster initially, without the added expense of fitting a double pole switch, and also allows for the master control being situated conveniently in the room instead of near the mains switch and meter. The thermostat's new features are based on a three position manual control with a locking device which prevents unauthorized tampering. These three positions are: (1) "Automatic", which brings the conventional features of the thermostat into operation; (2) "On", which allows fans of unit heaters to turn even when the thermostat is not calling for heat; (3) "Off", which shuts the plant down completely. It is available either with or without a built-in thermometer and is intended for use with low voltage or line equipment.

Honeywell Controls Ltd., Ruislip Road East, Greenford, Middlesex. Waxlow 2333.

Readers' Information Service, Ref. J. Date 10/6/59.



K

★

Crittall Reversible Window (K)

This company has produced a reversible window in order to meet the need which has arisen, with the increase in building heights, for a window which allows complete servicing from the inside. The new range of windows is of the horizontally centre-hung casement type, operated on friction pivots. They are constructed of rolled steel bar and are designed to allow couplings to be made with standard metal windows to form composite windows. A restraining catch is fitted on one jamb above the centre line of the casement, which limits the opening to a degree suitable for normal ventilation. The release of the restraining catch is a two-handed operation, since it is necessary to operate the central handle of the casement at the same time. It is virtually imposible to open the window more than 15 deg from the vertical. When the restraining catch is released, the casement can be completely reversed through 180 deg and it is then automatically engaged by a holding catch at the sill so that the outside can be serviced from inside the room. The windows are hot dip galvanized finish and range in size from 3ft 0¼in high by 3ft 3¼in wide to 4ft 11¼in high by 4ft 0¼in wide.

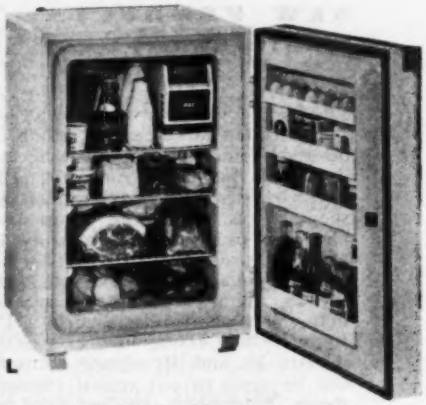
The Crittall Manufacturing Co. Ltd., 210 *High Holborn, London, W.C.*1. *Holborn* 6612.

Readers' Information Service, Ref. K. Date 10/6/59.

★

New G.E.C. Refrigerator (L)

The new G.E.C. cabin-sized refrigerator is designed for the lower-price market and although its capacity is only 2½ cu ft, it is capable of storing a surprising amount of food. The interior design provides over 5½ sq ft of shelf area and storage racks are fitted in the door for the accommodation of tins, bottles and eggs. It is fitted with an absorption type unit and has a loading of 100 W. The refrigerator has no protruding handle and is styled in the new "squared-up" fashion. Overall dimensions: 32¾in high by 21¼in wide by 24¼in deep. Finish: white or honeysuckle. Price: £49 17s 6d, including tax.


L

*General Electric Co. Ltd., Magnet House, Kingsway, London, W.C.*2. *Temple Bar* 8000.

Readers' Information Service, Ref. L. Date 10/6/59.

★

New Vitreous China Finish

Glowite is a new finish for vitreous china which gives it a dazzling white porcelain finish. It is exclusively used with this company's Swanlyne design sanitary fittings. Glowite must be compared with ordinary white ware to see how white it really is. Comparisons can be made either at the company's showrooms or at the Building Centre, 26 Store Street, London, W.C.1.

Alfred Goslett & Co. Ltd., 127-131 *Charing Cross Road, London, W.C.*2. Gerrard 7890.

Readers' Information Service, Ref. M. Date 10/6/59.

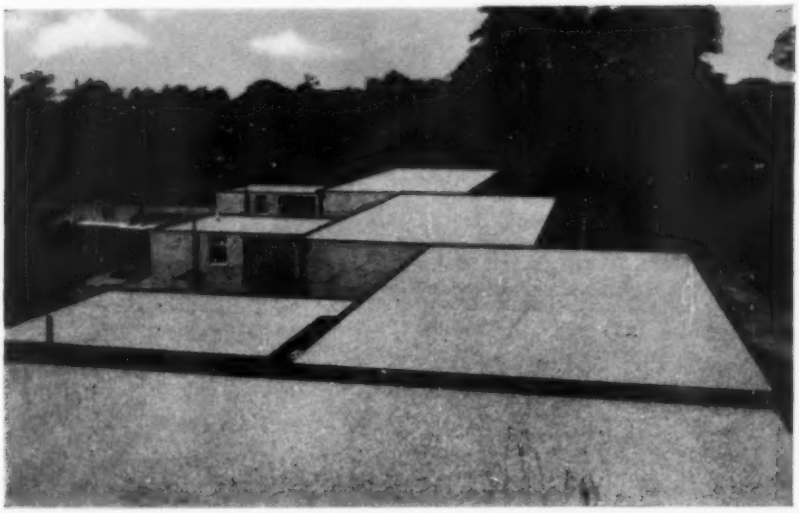
★

New Floor Paint

Evoflor is a new floor paint developed for interior or exterior use. It is suitable for application in factories, warehouses, canteens, offices, etc., and on surfaces such as concrete, wood, linoleum, tarmac and most bituminous compositions. It is claimed that Evoflor will provide a hardwearing seal giving protection against spillages and binds down the surface layer to prolong the life of the floor. It is supplied ready for application by brush, but may require thinning if sprayed or rolled on. It will take light traffic in two to four hours and normal traffic in 24 hours. Coverage: 30/50 sq yds/gal. Colours: white, cream, forest green, Venetian red, Admiralty grey and black.

Evode Ltd., Common Road, Stafford. Stafford 2241.

Readers' Information Service, Ref. N. Date 10/6/59.



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G

High School for Girls, Broadlands, Hereford
County Architect: W. Usher, A.R.I.B.A. Flooring Specialists: James Beattie Ltd., Wolverhampton.

School days are busy days

All over Britain new schools are being erected and much thought and care is being devoted to provide our children with gay hygienic surroundings.

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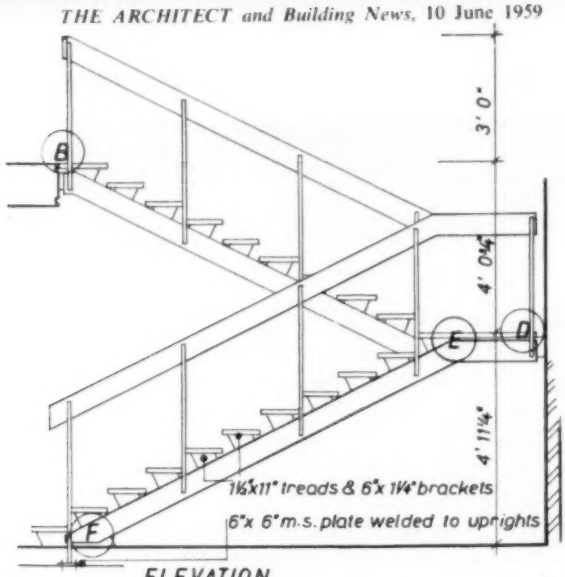
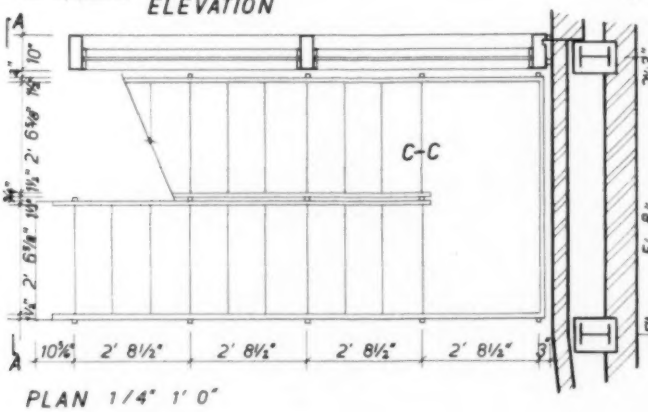
386

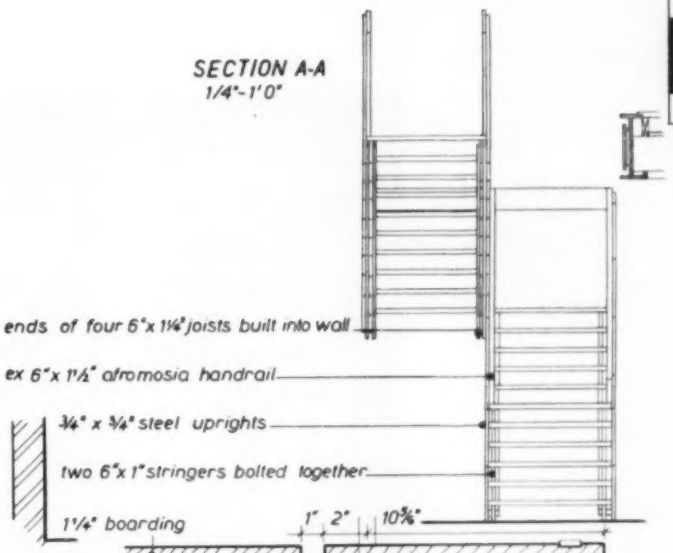


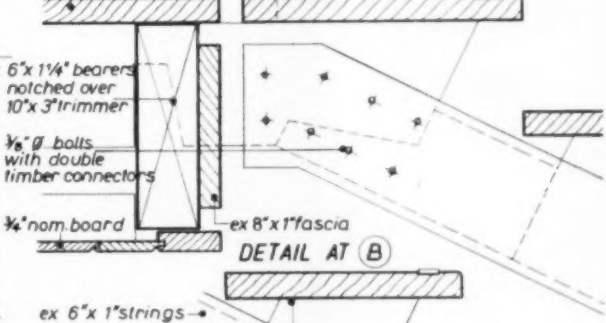
ELEVATION



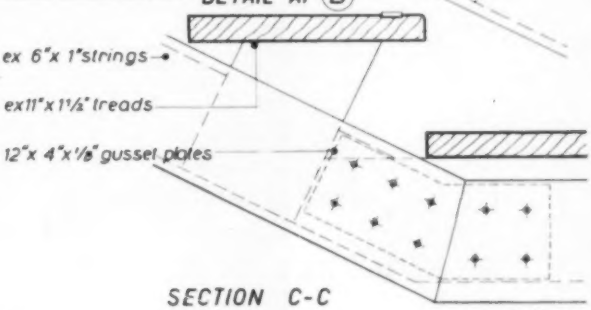
PLAN 1/4" 1' 0"

SECTION A-A
1/4"-1'0"

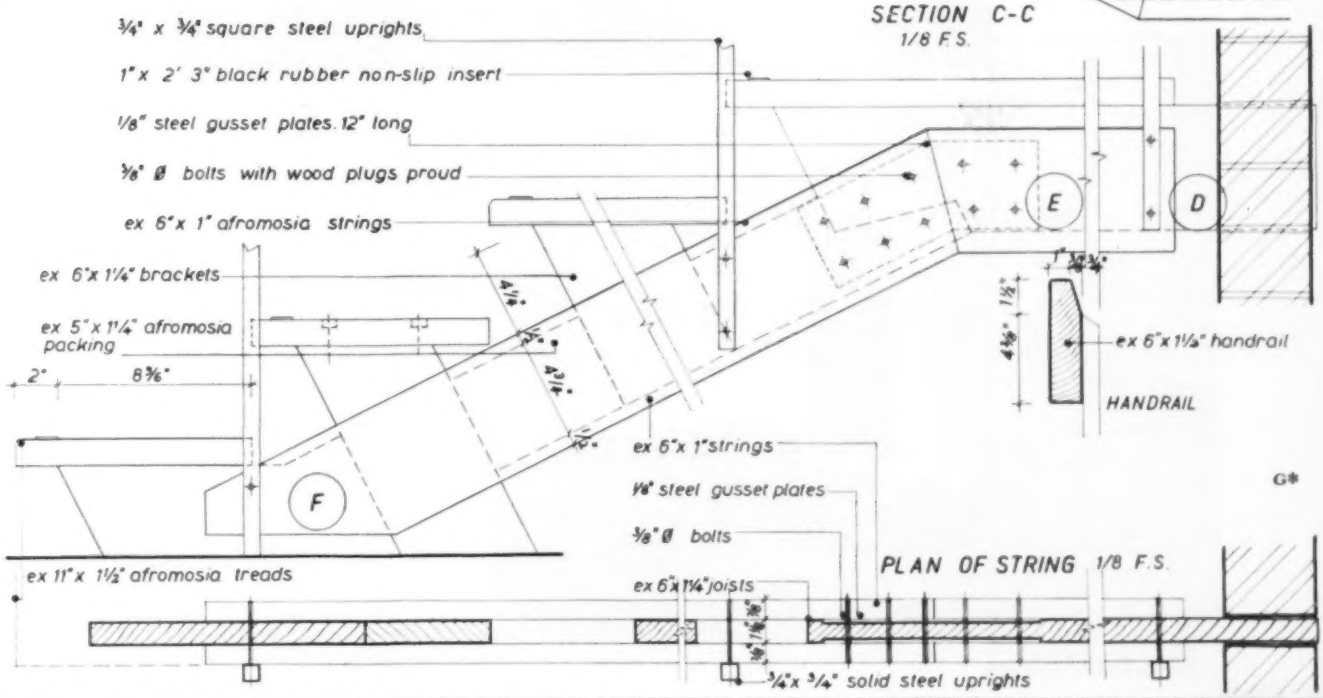




DETAIL AT (B)



SECTION C-C
1/8 F.S.



PLAN OF STRING 1/8 F.S.

G*

STAIRCASE. CHURCH SHEFFIELD. YORKS.

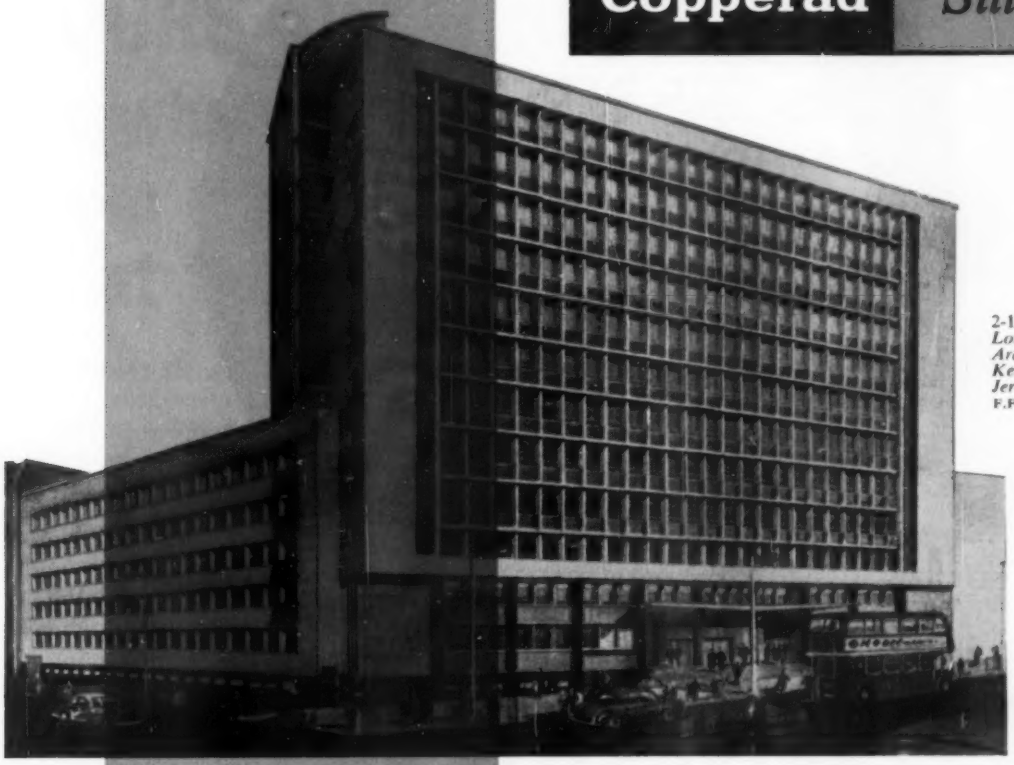
BASIL SPENCE & PARTNERS

The treads of this staircase are supported on brackets housed between the twin booms of the string. The metal balusters are painted gloss white and all hardwood is in afrormosia, the handrail and the treads being oiled and the strings varnished. The p.v.c. flooring is grey and white with the walls in handmade rust-red facing bricks. The architects are Basil Spence and Partners

STAIRCASE, CHURCH, SHEFFIELD

Modern London specifies

Copperad *Sill-line*



2-16 Blackfriars Road, London, S.E.1. Architects: Kenneth Wakeford, Jerram & Harris, F.F.R.I.B.A.

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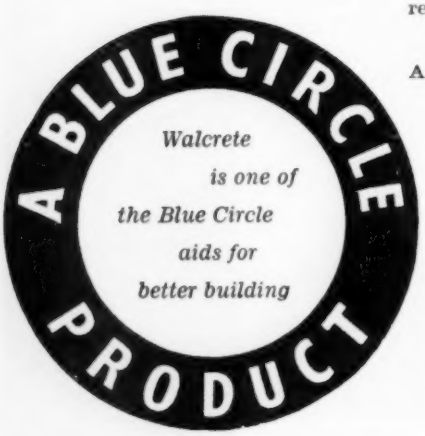

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CONTRACT • NEWS •

Notes below give basic data of contracts open under locality and authority which are in a bold type. References indicate : (a) type of work (b) address for application. Where no town is stated in the address it is the same as the locality given in the heading (c) deposit (d) last date of application (e) last date and time for submission of tenders. Full details of contracts marked • are given in the advertisement section.

OPEN

BUILDING

ALDERSHOT B.C. (a) Heron Wood estate, 84 dwellings. "Homerville" type traditional dwellings. 32 three-bedroom houses, 48 one-bedroom flats. Four one-bedroom bungalows. (b) Borough Engineer and Surveyor, Town Hall. (c) 2gn. (e) June 15.

* * *

BANBURY B.C. (a) Neithrop estate, Section 3. Erection of 140 houses in three schemes. Scheme 41A—44 houses. Scheme 41B—46 houses. Scheme 41C—50 houses. Contractors may tender for any one scheme or any combination of schemes. (b) Borough Engineer and Surveyor, Municipal Buildings. (c) 2gn. (e) June 15.

* * *

BLACKPOOL B.C. (a) Erection of Park School, Whitegate Drive. (b) Messrs. Grenfell, Baines and Hargreaves, Architects, 58 Topping Street, Blackpool. (d) May 29. (e) June 22.

* * *

BURY ST. EDMUNDS B.C. (a) 22 houses, Oliver Road and Bennett Avenue. (b) Borough Engineer and Surveyor, Borough Offices. (c) 2gn. (e) June 22.

* * *

CAMBRIDGE C.C. (a) 60 maisonnettes and 13 terrace houses at East Road development. (b) City Surveyor. (c) 2gn. (e) June 25.

* * *

CARMARTHEN B.C. (a) Small pumping station and laying of 360yd of 6in and 9in concrete tubes and 400yd of 5in cast iron mains. (b) Thomas & Morgan and Partners, consulting engineers, 23 Gelliswastad Road, Pontypridd. (c) 3gn. (e) June 23.

* * *

CASTLE WARD R.C. (a) 14 aged persons' bungalows in one block at Brunswick Village. (b) G. E. Dimmack, Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices, Ponteland. (c) 2gn. (e) June 19.

* * *

CHAILEY R.C. (a) Eight houses, Anchor Field, Ringmer, Sussex. (b) The Surveyor, Lewes House, Lewes, Sussex. (c) 5gn, by cheque. (e) June 19.

* * *

COOKHAM R.C. (a) Erection of 42 dwellings and construction of approx. 220yd of concrete carriageway, footways, road drainage, approach roads for garages, concrete rafts, etc., at Whyteladyes Lane. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices, 1 Bath Road, Maidenhead. (c) 2gn. (e) June 23.

* * *

CROYDON B.C. (a) Improvements to sanitary accommodation at Beulah Primary School, Beulah Road. (b) Chief Education Office, Katherine Street, Croydon. (c) £1. (e) June 23.

* * *

CROYDON B.C. (a) Improvements to sanitary accommodation at Norbury Manor Primary School, Stanford Road. (b) Chief Education Officer, Katherine Street, Croydon. (c) £1. (e) June 23.

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H

CROYDON B.C. (a) Single-storey extension to the ante-natal clinic, Lodge Road. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall. (e) July 6.

* * *

DEVON C.C. (a) Erection of fire station at Okehampton and fire station at Totnes. (b) County Architect, 97 Heavitree Road, Exeter. (c) 2gn each scheme, payable "Devon County Council."

* * *

DEVON C.C. (a) Two classrooms, extensions to kitchen, etc., at Exmouth Grammar School. (b) County Architect, 97 Heavitree Road, Exeter. (c) 2gn, payable "Devon County Council."

* * *

DONCASTER B.C. (a) Erection of bungalows. Eight at Cantley. Nine at Intake. 18 at Wheatley Park. 25 at Wormsworth. (b) Borough Architect's Office, 15 South Parade, Doncaster. (e) June 15.

* * *

EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE C.C. (a) Erection of a three-form entry county secondary school at Filey. (b) County Architect, County Hall, Beverley. (c) £2, cheques made payable to the County Treasurer. (e) July 6.

* * *

EAST SUFFOLK C.C. (a) Alterations and additions to "Cloncurry", Felixstowe. (b) County Architect, County Hall, Ipswich. (d) June 5. (e) July 3.

* * *

EAST SUFFOLK C.C. (a) Erection of second instalment of Lowestoft College for Further Education, totalling 17,000 sq ft, with sundry works to existing building. (b) County Architect, County Hall, Ipswich. (d) June 5. (e) July 9.

* * *

HENLEY-ON-THAMES B.C. (a) 18 dwellings in traditional construction. (b) Council's Architect, Eric G. V. Hives, L.R.I.B.A., 46 Queen's Road, Reading. (c) 2gn. (e) June 18.

* * *

HUYTON-WITH-ROBY U.C. (a) 11 shops, seven maisonnettes and four flats in one three-storey block at St. John's Road. (b) Architect and Housing Director, Grasscroft, Archway Road, Huyton. (d) June 12.

* * *

GREAT YARMOUTH B.C. (a) Fixed price tenders for erection of hostels for 60 aged and blind persons on Magdalene College estate, Gorleston. (b) Borough Engineer's Office. (c) 2gn. (e) July 2.

* * *

ILFORD B.C. (a) Erection of four agricultural workers' cottages, Alborough House, Hatch Farm. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall. (c) 2gn. (e) June 23.

* * *

ISLE OF ELY C.C. (a) Firm-price tenders for erection of a junior occupation centre at Money Bank, Wisbech. (b) County Architect, County Hall, March, Cambs. (c) 2gn by cheque payable to Isle of Ely County Council. (e) July 20.

ISLE OF WIGHT C.C. (a) Alterations and extensions at Newport Priory secondary girls' school, Nodehill, Newport. (b) County Architect, County Hall, Newport, I.o.W. (c) 3gn, made payable to Isle of Wight County Council. (d) June 8. (e) July 13.

* * *

LITTLE LEVER U.C. (a) Erection of 38 houses, two shops and flats, and construction of sewers. (b) Council's Surveyor, Council Offices, Little Lever, near Bolton, Lancs. (c) 2gn. (e) June 16.

* * *

READING C.B.C. (a) Fixed-price tender for erection of a cloakroom, extensions to kitchen, etc., at Westwood Girls' School. (b) Borough Architect, Town Hall. (c) 2gn, payable to Reading Corporation. (e) June 19.

* * *

SALFORD C.C. (a) Fixed-price tenders. Alterations to Frederick Road bus depot. (b) City Engineer and Surveyor's Department, Town Hall, Salford 3. (c) 3gn. (e) July 1.

* * *

SOUTHAMPTON. (a) Erection of a primary school at Kane's Hill, Thornhill. (b) Written application to Borough Architect, Civic Centre, Southampton. (e) June 22.

* * *

STOCKPORT B.C. (a) Erection of 51 dwellings at Brinnington. (b) Borough Architect, Town Hall. (d) May 28. (e) July 6.

* * *

STOKE-ON-TRENT B.C. (a) Erection of the College of Physics and Chemistry at North Staffs Technical College. Two blocks six-storeys high, totalling 50,000 sq ft. (b) J. R. Piggott, F.R.I.B.A., City Architect, Kingsway Chambers, Stoke-on-Trent. (d) June 5. (e) July 6.

* * *

SUNDERLAND B.C. (a) Erection of 206 dwellings on Town End Farm Estate. (b) Borough Architect, Grange House, Stockton Road, Sunderland. (c) 2gn by cheque, payable "Sunderland Corporation". (e) June 23.

* * *

WARWICK B.C. (a) Erection of 26 old people's bed sitting-room units. six two-storey dwelling units. Ten two-storey dwelling units. Warden's bungalow and a community hall. (b) Hector Seton Brown, Borough Engineer and Surveyor, 23 Jury Street, Warwick. (c) 2gn. (e) June 20.

* * *

WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE C.C. (a) Internal renovations at 93, 93a and 95 Northgate, Wakefield. (b) County Architect, Bishopgarth, Westfield Road, Wakefield. (d) June 8. (e) June 22.

* * *

WHISTON R.D.C. (a) Fixed-price contract. 203 dwellings on Knowsley housing scheme, near Liverpool (Part 1). (b) Watson Garbutt, Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices, Delph Lane, Whiston, Prescot, Lancs. (c) 2gn. (e) July 8.

WOKING U.C. (a) Four flats, four maisonnettes, Board School Road and ten bungalows, Well Lane. (b) Engineer and Surveyor. (c) 2gn. (d) June 13.

* * *

YEOVIL R.C. (a) Six traditional bungalows with site works at Barwick, also 22 dwellings with site works at Martock. (b) Petter, Warren and Boydon Cooper, F./F.R.I.B.A., The Old Oxford Inn, West rlendford, Yeovil, stating for which scheme it is desired to tender. (c) 2gn, cheques payable Yeovil Rural District Council. (e) June 18.

PLACED

Notes on contracts placed state locality and authority in bold type with (1) type of work (2) site, (3) name of contractor and address, (4) amount of tender or estimate. † denotes that work may not start pending final acceptance, or obtaining of licence, or modification of tenders, etc.

BASINGSTOKE B.C. (1) 58 dwellings, etc. (2) South Ham Estate. (3) Mussell-white & Son Ltd., Eastror Works, Basingstoke. (4) £102,926.

* * *

BERMONDSEY B.C. (1) Six-storey block of flats. (2) Lower Road. (3) Thomas & Edge Ltd., 52 Macbean Street, Woolwich, S.E.18. (4) £53,542.

* * *

BIRKENHEAD. (1) Erection of St. Michael and All Angels primary scheme, for the R.C. authorities. (3) Lloyd & Cross Ltd., Port Causeway, Bromborough, Cheshire.

* * *

BISHOP AUCKLAND U.C. (1) 60 houses, 14 old people's bungalows. (2) Woodhouse Close Estate. (3) Edwin Pye & Son Ld., East Parade, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham. (4) £88,187.

* * *

BRIERLEY HILL B.C. (1) Public baths. (3) McKeand Smith & Co. Ltd., Wolverhampton. (4) £110,601.

* * *

BRISTOL C.C. (1) Flats and maisonnettes. (2) Jacobs Wells Road. (3) Wm. Cowlin & Son Ltd., Stratton Street, Bristol 2. (4) £234,651.

* * *

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY GENERATING BOARD. (1) Superstructure, administration block, etc., at new power station. (2) West Thurrock, Essex. (3) Richard Costain Ltd., 111 Westminster Bridge Road, London, S.E.1.

* * *

CHESTER C.C. (1) Extension. (2) City High School. (3) William Tomkinson & Sons Ltd., 7 Great Newton Street, Liverpool 3. (4) £147,989.

* * *

CORNWALL. (1) New lifeboat station. (2) The Lizard. (3) Gray, Conoley & Co. Ltd., Islington Wharf, Penryn, Cornwall. (4) £65,000.

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* * *

DURHAM. (1) New quadrangle. (2) Grey College. (3) Holland & Hannen and Cubitts (Scotland) Ltd., Glasgow. (4) £200,000.

* * *

ESSEX C.C. (1) Secondary school. (2) Corringham. (3) H. Fairweather & Co. Ltd., St. James's Lane, London, N.10. (4) £145,952. (1) Secondary school. (2) Granham, Hornchurch. (3) J. Webb & Son Ltd., 326 St. John Street, London, E.C.1. (4) £101,239. (1) Erection of Royal Grammar School. (2) Colchester. (3) Hutton (Builders) Ltd., Birch, Colchester. (1) Secondary school. (2) Monkwick, Colchester. (4) £143,945.

* * *

HAMPSHIRE C.C. (1) Junior school. (2) Cove. (3) Hawkins Bros. Ltd., Gosport. (4) £71,486.

* * *

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. (1) 149 dwellings. (2) Adeyfield. (3) C. Miskin & Son Ltd., Romeland, St. Albans. (4) £266,000.

* * *

LONDON, CITY. (1) Block of offices. (2) 274-280 Bishopsgate, E.C.2. (3) Holland & Hannen and Cubitts Ltd., 1 Queen Anne's Gate, London, S.W.1.

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LONDON, S.W.1. (1) Block of shops, showrooms, offices. (2) Artillery Row, S.W.1. (3) Patman & Fotheringham Ltd., 15 Islington Park Street, London, N.1. (4) £60,000.

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LONDON, W. (1) Multi-storey block of flats. (2) 16-17 Grosvenor Square, W.1. (3) Token Construction Co. Ltd., 68 Mount Street, London, W.1.

LONDON, W. (1) Maisonnettes and flats. (2) 55 Great Cumberland Place, W.1. (3) Trollope & Colls Ltd., 1 Noble Street, Gresham Street, London, E.C.1.

* * *

MIDDLESBROUGH B.C. (1) First instalment of St. Mary's College. (3) Hudson Brothers, Fidler Street, Middlesbrough. (4) £79,705.

* * *

NORTHANTS C.C. (1) Erection of school. (2) Corby. (3) Drabble Construction Co. Ltd., Cannon Street, Wellingborough, Northants. (4) £81,682. (1) Four-storey police station. (2) Wellingborough. (3) A. J. G. Potter & Sons Ltd., High Street, Stanwick, Northants. (4) £55,650. (1) School. (2) Kings Ltd., Cliffe. (3) Henry J. Firman Ltd., Fen Newark Road, Peterborough.

* * *

OXFORD C.C. (1) Extensions to primary school. (2) Cutteslowe. (3) Morris Builders (Oxford) Ltd., Weldon Road, Aylesbury. (4) £23,819.

* * *

PEMBROKESHIRE C.C. (1) Grammar-modern school. (2) Tenby. (3) William Eaves & Co. Ltd., Vicarage Lane, Blackpool. (4) £260,000.

* * *

RHYMNEY U.C. (1) 86 dwellings. (2) Ty Coch (No. 3) site. (3) Gee, Walker & Slater Ltd., Coychurch Road, Bridgend, Glam. (4) £122,847.

* * *

ROTHERHAM B.C. (1) Extensions to grammar school. (3) C. Earnshaw (Rotherham) Ltd., 35 Gilberthorpe Street, Rotherham. (4) £62,886.

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SMETHWICK B.C. (1) Dwellings. (2) Stanhope Road. (3) W. J. Whittall & Sons Ltd., 132 Lancaster Street, Birmingham. (4) £435,621.

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STALYBRIDGE B.C. (1) Blocks of flats. (2) Castle Hall No. 2 area. (3) Unity Structures Ltd., 5 Cromer Street, London, W.C.1. (4) £78,946.

* * *

SWANSEA B.C. (1) Assembly hall and classroom block. (2) Technical College. (3) E. Turner & Sons, Penarth Road, Grangetown, Cardiff. (4) £93,226.

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WAKEFIELD B.C. (1) 11 storey block of flats. (2) George Street. (3) Truscon Ltd., 35 Lower Marsh, London, S.E.1. Negotiated tender.

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WIGAN B.C. (1) Secondary school. (2) Pemberton. (3) J. Gerrard & Sons Ltd., Swinton, near Manchester. (4) £161,394.

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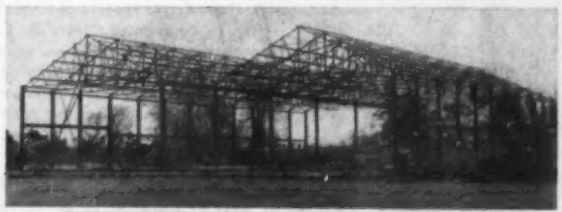

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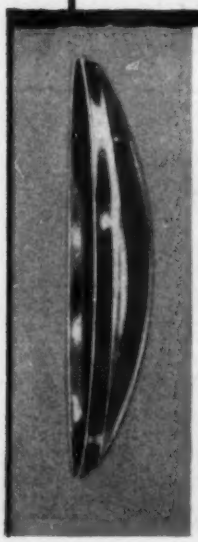

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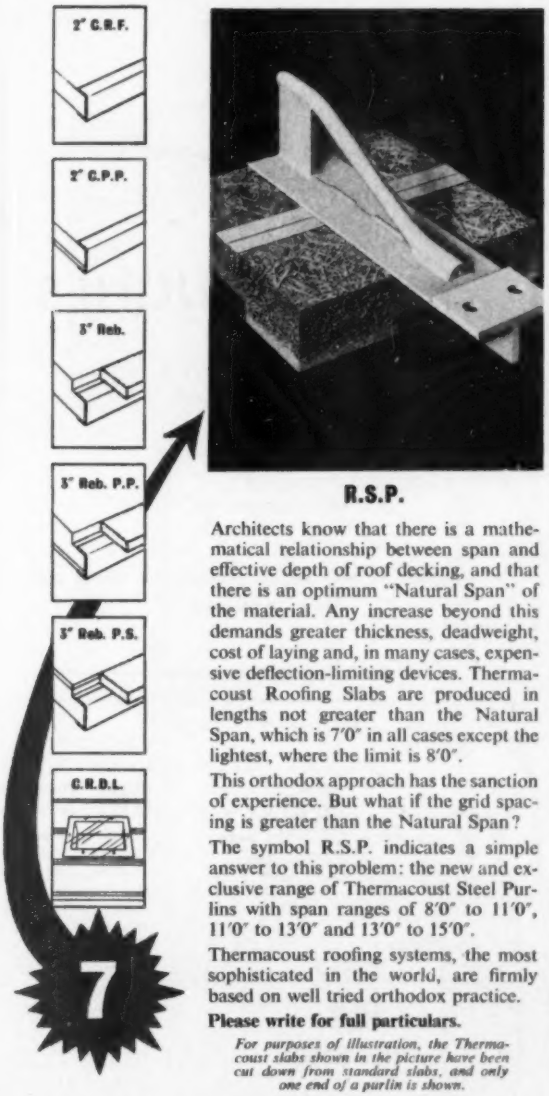

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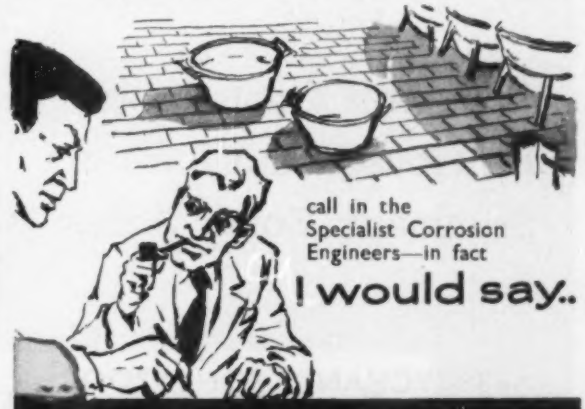

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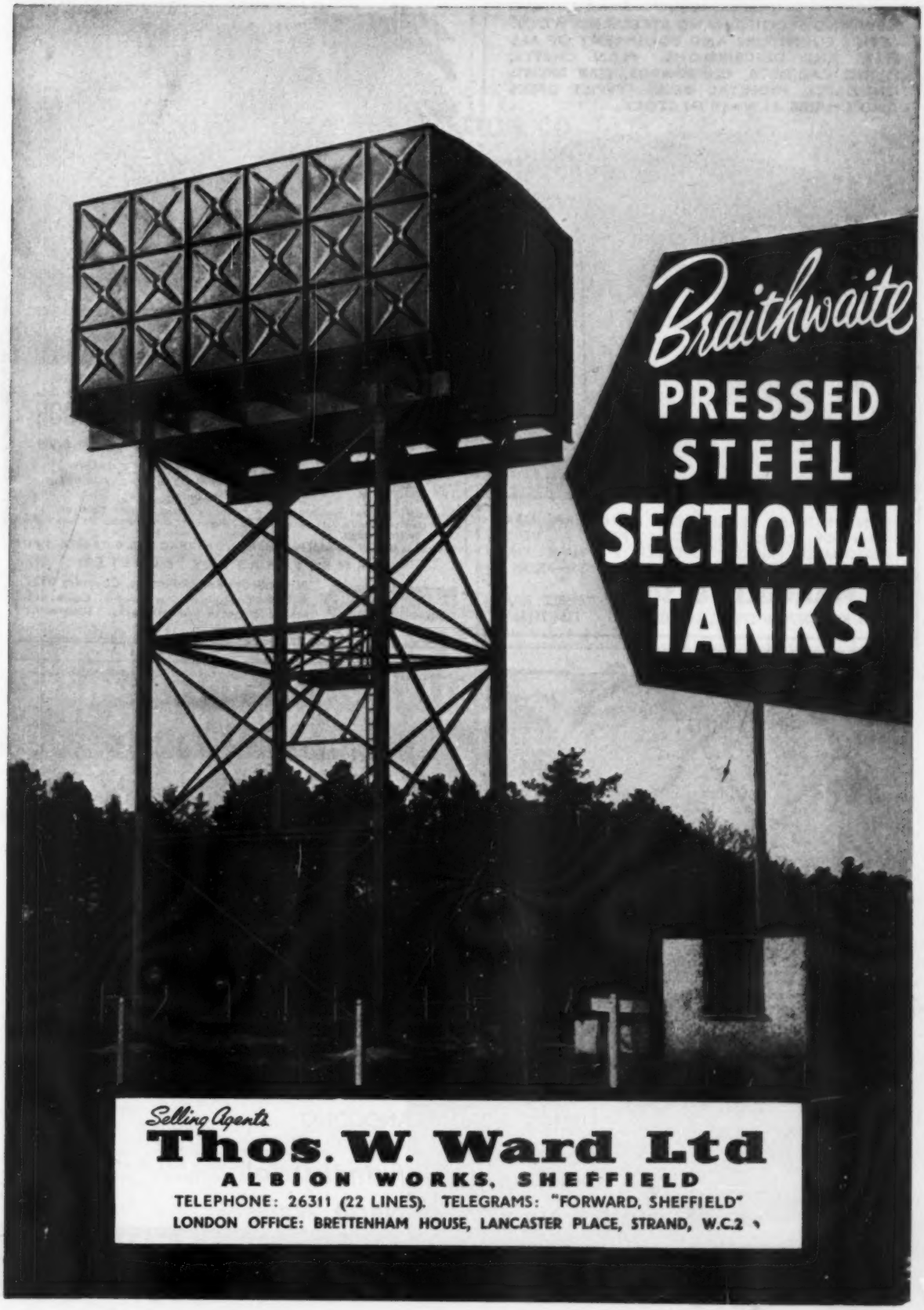
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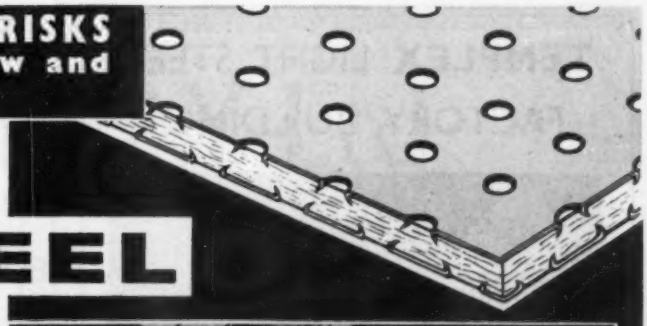

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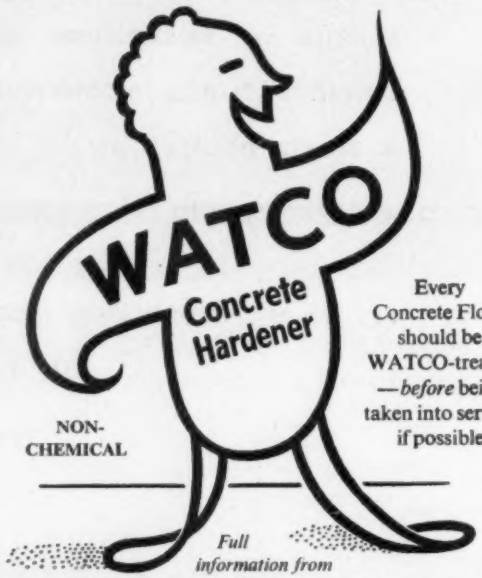

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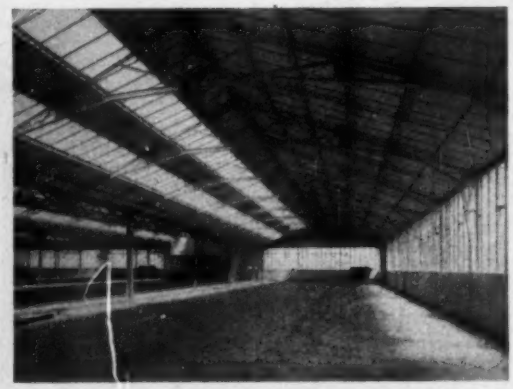

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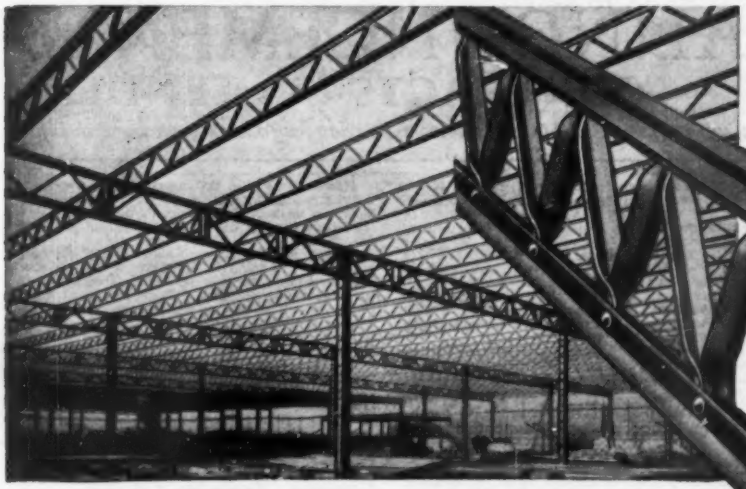

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Clerk of the Council.

Town Hall,
BEESTON, Nottingham. [5252

Borough of Leigh
Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department
BUILDING INSPECTOR

APPLICATIONS are invited for the above appointment. Salary within Grade APT II (£765/£880).

Particulars as to the duties of the appointment are obtainable from the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, Town Hall, Leigh.

The appointment is superannuable, subject to the National Conditions of Service and to medical examination. Applicants must disclose in writing whether to their knowledge they are related to any member of the Council or the holder of any senior office under the Council. Canvassing will disqualify.

Applications, endorsed "Building Inspector", stating age, qualifications and experience, and giving the names and addresses of two referees, must reach the undersigned not later than the 24th June, 1959.

ALBERT JONES,
Town Clerk.

Town Hall,
Leigh, Lancs. [5253

City of Sheffield
City Architect's Department

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments on the Staff of the City Architect, Mr. J. L. Womersley.

(a) **Group Leader Architect**—J.N.C. Scale "B" (£1,315/£1,485).

(b) **Group Leader Architects**—J.N.C. Scale "A" (£1,215/£1,390).

(c) **Assistant Architects**—Grade S.C. (£785/£1,070).

Architects with enthusiasm and determination are required to help rebuild this industrial hill city.

The above vacancies are for work in connection with large scale schemes of redevelopment and new development on which building work will commence early in 1960. There are excellent prospects of further work on interesting schemes of urban renewal and new developments.

Commencing salaries within the above grades according to qualifications and experience.

Applications stating post applied for, age, education and training, qualifications, present and past appointments (with dates and salaries), experience and the names of two persons to whom reference may be made should reach me not later than Tuesday, 16th June, 1959.

JOHN HEYS,
Town Clerk.

Town Hall,
Sheffield, 1.

[5256

Kent County Council

INVITES applications for superannuable appointments in the Planning Department as follows:

(a) **Architectural Assistant** in the headquarters at Maidstone. Salary withing Grade APT IV (£1,065/£1,220) or Special Scale (£785/£1,070) according to qualifications and experience. Candidates must be Associates of the Royal Institute of British Architects or hold an equivalent qualification.

(b) **Planning Assistant** for work in an area office concerned principally with development control matters and the preparation of town maps. Salary within Grade APT I (£610/£765) or APT II (765/£880) according to qualifications and experience. Candidates must possess an appropriate university degree or diploma or have passed a recognized intermediate professional examination.

National Scheme of Conditions of Service applies and registered disabled persons will be considered.

Applications, with names of two referees, to County Planning Officer, County Hall, Maidstone, by June 22, 1959. [5250

Northern Polytechnic, Holloway, London, N.7

THE Governing Body invite immediate applications for appointment to the Department of Architecture, Surveying and Building as Lecturer on Advanced Construction, Theory of Structures and Building Regulations. Salary scale: £1,260 x £31 10s—£1,417 10s together with allowances in accordance with the Burnham Award.

Applicants are expected to have an appropriate professional qualification and to have had at least three years' practical experience. Some teaching experience is desirable.

Apply for form of application and further particulars to the Clerk to the Governors. [5294

Borough of Basingstoke
Borough Architect's Department

A rapidly expanding town offers interesting work for a Senior Architectural Assistant who has passed the R.I.B.A. Final. Salary range: £785/£1,070 according to experience. House or flat available. N.J.C. conditions; post pensionable; medical examination.

Applications, giving details of age, training, experience, etc., and two referees, to Borough Architect, Municipal Buildings, Basingstoke, by June 19, 1959. [5204

County Borough of West Ham

APPLICATIONS invited for appointment of:

Deputy Borough Architect and Planning Officer. (Salary: £1,776 13s 4d by three annual increments to £2,000 p.a. inclusive and £100 car allowance).

Applicants must be experienced in redevelopment of urban areas, including high density housing, town planning administration, and management of large building contracts. Successful applicant must be prepared to accept a high degree of responsibility for a large and varied programme.

Details, together with application form, which should be returned by June 16, 1959, from the Borough Architect and Planning Officer, Thomas E. North, O.B.E., F.R.I.B.A., Dist.T.P., M.T.P.I., 70 West Ham Lane, Stratford, E.15.

G. E. SMITH,
Town Clerk.

West Ham Town Hall,
Stratford,
E.15. [5224

W. S. ATKINS & PARTNERS
Consulting Engineers

REQUIRE qualified Architects and Assistants in their Architects' Department to work on major industrial projects and nuclear power stations. Conditions of service include a five-day week and superannuation scheme. Applications should be addressed to the Personnel Manager, 158 Victoria Street, S.W.1. [5234

Borough of Nelson
SENIOR ASSISTANT ARCHITECT

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of Senior Assistant Architect in the office of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor. Salary within Special Scale (£785/£1,070 p.a.). Commencing salary according to experience and qualifications.

Applicants must be Associates of the Royal Institute of British Architects and have good general experience in housing and public buildings.

The appointment will be subject to the National Scheme of Conditions of Service and consideration will be given to the provision of housing accommodation.

Applications (endorsed "Senior Assistant Architect") giving details of age, education, qualifications, experience and present salary, with the names and addresses of two referees, to be sent to the undersigned, not later than the first post on Saturday, June 27, 1959.

F. W. ROBERTS,
Town Clerk.

Town Hall,
Nelson.
June 2, 1959. [5261

London County Council
ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS required up to £860 (at present under review). Full and interesting programme of houses, flats, schools and general buildings. Application form and particulars from Hubert Bennett, F.R.I.B.A., Architect to Council, AR/EK/43/59 County Hall, S.E.1 (923) [0166

London County Council
ARCHITECTS
Grade III

(UP to £1,135 commencing, according to qualifications and experience) for housing, schools and general divisions. Full varied programme of new work includes schools, multi-storey flats and town development. Particulars and application form from Hubert Bennett, F.R.I.B.A., Architect to Council, AR/EK/57/59, County Hall, S.E.1. (1132). [0204

Hemel Hempstead Development Corporation

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following vacancies in the Chief Architect's department:

Senior Planning Officer (£934/£1,273). Vacancy No. 154.

Duties include liaison with other planning authorities on matters affecting revised Master Plan, planning applications, etc. Experience in planning office essential. Short-term post which might be attractive to senior man approaching retiring age.

Senior Assistant Architect. (£934/£1,273). Vacancy No. 155.

To take charge of small team responsible for housing, neighbourhood centre, etc., development.

Architectural Assistants. Vacancy No. 156.

In Grades with salaries ranging from £265/£939, according to age, qualifications and experience. Junior posts available for architectural students not yet qualified, and for those who have qualified and wish to gain practical experience.

Conditions of Service similar to those in Local Government. Housing may be provided.

Applications, endorsed with appropriate vacancy number, giving age, education, qualifications and experience and names of two business referees to General Manager, Westbrook Hay, Hemel Hempstead. [5187

Ebbw Vale Urban District Council
Architect's Department
APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY ARCHITECT

APPLICATIONS are invited from Corporate Members of the R.I.B.A. for the appointment of Deputy Architect in the Department of the Architect to the Council at a salary within APT Grade IV (£1,065/£1,220) of the National Joint Council's Scales.

The successful applicant will be expected to commence duties on September 1, 1959.

The appointment will be subject to three months' notice on either side, to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Acts and to the passing of a medical examination.

Housing accommodation may be made available if required.

The Architect's Department has a varied programme of work including new housing, slum clearance redevelopment schemes, proposed civic centre, etc.

Applications endorsed "Deputy Architect", stating age, education, training, qualifications, experience, present and past appointments and enclosing copies of two recent testimonials should be submitted to the undersigned not later than Wednesday, June 22, 1959.

HOWARD J. WILLIAMS,
Clerk to the Council.

Council Offices,
The Walk,
Ebbw Vale, Mon.
May 28, 1959. [5246

County Borough of Rochdale

APPLICATIONS are invited for the post of Quantity Surveyor on Special Classes Scale (£750/£1,030 p.a.).

The successful applicant, if fully qualified, will be offered housing accommodation.

Applications, including names of two referees, to the Borough Surveyor, Town Hall, Rochdale, by 1st July, 1959.

Canvassing or non-disclosure of relationship to any member or senior official of the Council will disqualify. Appointment subject to medical examination.

K. B. MOORE,
Town Clerk.

[5260

County Borough of East Ham
Borough Engineer's Department

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following temporary appointments:

Senior Assistant Architect, Grade IV (£1,065/£1,220).

Architectural Assistant, Grade II (£765/£880).

London Weighting is paid in addition, and salaries in excess of the minima may be paid according to qualifications and experience. The appointments are for work on a new technical college and are expected to be for a period of not less than three years.

Further details and application forms, returnable by June 26, 1959, from the Town Clerk, Town Hall, East Ham, E.6. [5257

London County Council
Architect's Department

VACANCY for Architectural and Topographical Model Maker (up to £895 per annum). Previous experience essential and applicant should be able to work from architect's plans and elevations on wood, card, metal and Perspex.

Application form, returnable by June 23, 1959, from Architect (AR/EK/58/59), The County Hall, S.E.1. (1267) [5258

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required

HAVING experience in industrial buildings and projects.

Must be capable of administration, supervision of staff and control of contracts. A.R.I.B.A. essential.

Apply, stating experience and salary required, to the Group Architect, The British Thomson-Houston Co. Ltd., Rugby.

[5227

Kent County Council
ASSISTANT COUNTY ARCHITECT

REQUIRED at a salary within the range £1,790/£2,280 a year, according to qualifications and experience.

Candidates must be Fellows or Associates of the Royal Institute of British Architects and have had wide experience in the practice of architecture.

Further details and forms of application obtainable from the County Architect, Springfold, Maidstone, to whom applications must be returned by not later than June 12, 1959. [5222

ARCHITECTURAL APPOINTMENTS VACANT

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT, London. Final standard. Industrial and commercial. Progressive and interesting. Salary according to experience and ability. Box 3667. [0079

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT. Intermediate standard. Busy London office. Good prospects. Box 3668. [0080

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS (Final and Intermediate) required for work on university laboratory, telephone exchange and officers' mess. Apply stating salary required to Playne & Lacey, 19 Queen Anne's Gate, Westminster, S.W.1, or telephone: WHI 2552. [0078

ARCHITECTS AND SURVEYORS, with general practice, require Assistants (Intermediate, Qualified or equivalent standards) with initiative and ability to work with minimum supervision. Excellent opportunity for acquiring wide experience on small and large scientific commercial and industrial buildings. Good salary. Holiday commitments considered. Luncheon vouchers. Pension scheme. Five-day week. Ley, Colbeck & Partners, F/F.R.I.B.A., F/F.R.I.C.S., 51 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2. LONdon Wall 7282. [0206

ASSISTANT ARCHITECTS of Intermediate and Final standard required for Buckinghamshire office. The work is varied and interesting with scope for initiative and responsibility. Please state age, experience and salary required. Box 1979. [0136

ASSISTANTS, both qualified and unqualified, required for extensive commercial and industrial programme. Salary according to ability and experience. Lunch facilities available. Box 3879. [5225

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS. Qualified Assistants required by Cecil Howitt & Partners, St. Andrew's House, Nottingham. Write stating details of experience, salary required, etc. [5226

ARCHITECT/INTERIOR DESIGN ASSISTANT (male), Intermediate to Final R.I.B.A. standard. salary £500/£900. Details of previous experience to Leslie Walker, A.R.I.B.A., Company Architect, John Perring Ltd., Sheen Lane House, S.W.14. [5254

AUSTRALIA. A firm of architects wishes to engage one or more Senior Assistants. The practice is carried on in Wollongong, a city of 115,000 people situated on the coast some 50 miles from Sydney and one of the two major centres of steel production in Australia and covers all classes of work. Prospective applicants should enquire at Australia House concerning assisted air passages (cost £10) for British migrants. Single accommodation can be found. Interviews will be made on our behalf by Raglan Squire & Partners, 3 Hobart Place, London, S.W.1 (tel.: Sloane 5261) to whom initial application should be made. [5244

BASIL SPENCE & PARTNERS require Final Standard Assistants with about five years' office experience. Write to 48 Queen Anne Street, W.1, stating experience and also salary required. [5259

DOLCIS LTD. require immediately, Architectural Assistants of both intermediate and senior standards. Previous shopfitting experience not necessary, provided keen interest in contemporary shop design. Good salary, dependent on experience. Five-day week, non-contributory pension scheme. Reply stating age, experience, and salary required to Ellis E. Somake, F.R.I.B.A., Chief Architect, Dolcis Ltd., 7-13 Great Dover Street, S.E.1. [5231

JUNIOR ASSISTANT required for Bournemouth architects' office. State age, experience and salary required. Must be ex National Service. Box 3770. [5199

QUALIFIED ARCHITECT required by building company in Somerset. Must be experienced in factory and housing design and construction. Salary by arrangement. Box 3979. [5247

QUALIFIED ARCHITECT required for large-scale speculative housing flat and estate development. Write in confidence with full details of experience and salary required to: King & Son (Birchington) Ltd., Birchington, Kent. [5202

SENIOR ASSISTANT required for Bournemouth architects' office, Final or near Final standard. Age not material; state experience and salary required. Box 3769. [5198

SEVERAL Senior and Intermediate Architectural Assistants are required for commercial projects including hotel, theatre and extensive development schemes of offices and light industry, etc., in London architect's office. Holiday arrangements will be recognized. Five-day week. Salary according to experience. Telephone City 8811. [0205

THURROCK U.D.C. (Engineer and Surveyor's Department) require Architectural Assistant under Architect to the Council. Salary: APT I/II (£610/£880 p.a.). Good architectural experience necessary. Applicants must be capable of preparing working drawings in all categories and should have passed Intermediate Examination of the R.I.B.A. The Council have interesting projects in hand, including an indoor swimming bath. Appointment pensionable. Applications, stating age, qualifications and experience, and quoting three referees, to Clerk of the Council, Council Offices, Grays, Essex, by June 23, 1959. Canvassing disqualifies. Relationship with members or senior officers of the Council must be disclosed. [5248

TWO Architectural Assistants, Intermediate standard, required for very large scheme. Considerable office experience is desirable. West End office. Excellent salary, bonus and luncheon vouchers. Box 3880. [0202

UNFURNISHED ACCOMMODATION for Assistant interested in Contemporary Hospital project, with some office experience, of Final Standard or recently qualified. Edgington, Spink & Hyne, 52 High Street, Windsor. Write full details. [5255

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DIRECTOR'S ASSISTANT, live and keen with experience in building industry, used to costing, typing, sales, etc. Write in confidence with full details of experience and salary required to: King & Son (Birchington) Ltd., Birchington, Kent. [5203

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MISCELLANEOUS

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Telephone: 3428/9
[5209

COMPETITION

Urban District Council of Corby
ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION FOR CIVIC CENTRE

THE promoters, the Urban District Council of Corby, invite architects resident in Great Britain and Northern Ireland to submit designs in competition for a proposed Civic Centre, to include Municipal Offices, Council Chamber, etc., Public Assembly Halls and Swimming Bath, to be erected on a site in the Town Centre of this NEW TOWN.

The promoters have appointed Mr. Edward D. Mills, C.B.E., F.R.I.B.A., F.R.S.A., of London, to adjudicate on the designs received and to make the award.

Premiums:
1st Prize: £1,000 (to be merged with the fee).
2nd Prize: £750.
3rd Prize: £500.

For the purpose of this competition, the word "architect" shall mean persons who are registered under the Architects (Registration) Acts, 1931 and 1938, and resident as mentioned above. Any applicant for the conditions must state his registration number; if application is made by a firm, the registration numbers of the architect partner or partners of the firm must be given.

Applications for conditions, schedule of accommodation, site plan, etc., must be accompanied by a deposit of £2 (cheques being made payable to the Urban District Council of Corby) and are to be addressed to the undersigned. Deposits will be returned on receipt of a bona fide design and after the award has been published or, in the event of the applicant declining to compete, on the return of the competition documents at least four weeks before the date for submitting design.

G. B. BLACKALL,
Clerk of the Council.

County Offices,
Corby,
Northants.
May 23, 1959. [5241

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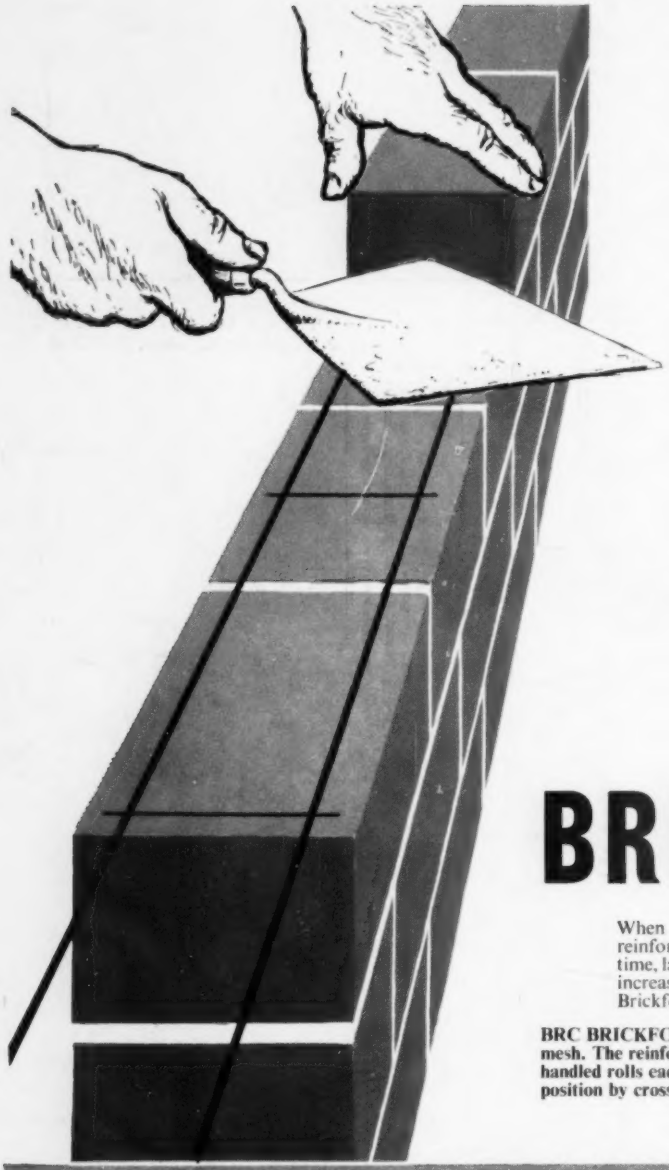

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